Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

What's your level of confidence that CUC will be able to meet Saipan's demand for power when the Aggreko contract ends in September?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 5

As of May 25, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Susan Redux

Singing sensation Susan Boyle made a new television appearance, showcasing once again her soaring voice.

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Construction of Rota, Tinian road projects to start soon. **PAGE 3**

Minimum wage rate in CNMI rises to $4.55 today. **PAGE 9**

The photos of the CNMI's fallen soldiers hang on the wall of the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill. Other picture shows the family of one of the CNMI's fallen soldiers buried at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi putting flowers on their loved one's grave after a Memorial Day ceremony yesterday. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

'To die for the freedom of others is noble'

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Rear Admiral William D. French, commander of the U.S. Naval Forces in the Marianas Region, led the Memorial Day ceremonies yesterday at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi, saying that to die for the freedom of others is a noble act.

French, whose father served in the Battle of Saipan in 1944-1945, said that veterans' memories must be kept alive, their sacrifices honored, and their stories told.

French, along with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and some 70 U.S. veterans, joined in the traditional laying of the wreaths. Families of 17 fallen soldiers,

See TO DIE on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Rear Admiral William French, left, commander of the U.S. Navy Region Marianas, shakes hands with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial after the laying of a wreath during yesterday's Memorial Day ceremony at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi.

Betel nut: A $9M industry for NMI

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The CNMI already has a promising industry that could help revive its ailing economy—the betel nut.

The Northern Marianas College's Cooperative Research Extension and Education Services disclosed that in the CNMI alone, this product generates over $9 million revenue every year.

However, more than half of that amount goes to neighboring places like Yap and Pohnpei—two main markets that are importing the produce to the CNMI.

Isidoro T. Cabrera, CNMI-CREES agriculture specialist, said there is increasing demand

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Fitial's special legal counsel quits

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's California-based special legal counsel, Joel Bergsma, has quit his post, and a replacement has yet to be named as of yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

For three years, Bergsma served as the governor's special legal counsel starting when Fitial assumed the top executive post in January 2006.

Bergsma, who was paid between $50,000 and $70,000 per year, also served as chief legal counsel to the 4th House of Representatives, of which Fitial was a member.

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French to end Marianas duty in July

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

He was only 14 or 15 years old when he first visited Saipan. His father, a veteran of the Battle of Saipan in 1944, wanted to show him the place where he spent time on during World War II.

That spot is on Mount Tapochao, the island's highest peak at 1,545 feet, offering an amazing 360-degree view of Saipan, as well as Tinian.

"I never had the chance to come back [to Saipan] until I was assigned to Guam [in 2007]," Rear Admiral William "Bill" D. French, the outgoing commander of the U.S. Naval Forces Marianas, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

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2009 Memorial Day

Lt. Michael Murphy, left, introduces the keynote speaker, Rear Admiral William French, seated left, commander of the Navy Region Marianas, during yesterday's 2009 Memorial Day ceremony at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi. Seated from left are French, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios, and Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Rear Admiral William French, left, commander of the Navy Region Marianas, and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial lead the wreath-laying during yesterday's 2009 Memorial Day ceremony at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi. Also in photo is Capt. Richard W. Daniel, left, partly hidden, of the U.S. Navy's Maritime Prepositioning Ship Squadron Three.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Special Assistant for Administration Esther Fleming and Maj. Greg Sablan walk past miniature American flags as they prepare to put red roses on the graves of each of the CNMI's fallen soldier buried at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi yesterday as part of the Memorial Day ceremony.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Members of Company E, 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry of the U.S. Army Reserve fire a 21-rifle salute during the 2009 Memorial Day ceremony at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi yesterday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A Pacific Winds Concert Band bugler play taps near the graves of CNMI fallen soldiers as part of yesterday's Memorial Day ceremony at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Saipan Southern High School JROTC members march with the different military service flags at the conclusion of yesterday's Memorial Day ceremony at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Will DeWitt, right, conducts the Pacific Winds Concert Band at the conclusion of yesterday's Memorial Day ceremony at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

From left, Rear Admiral William French, commander of the Navy Region Marianas, Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman, U.S. Navy Capt. Jeff Pack, and Capt. Richard W. Daniel, of the U.S. Navy's Maritime Prepositioning Ship Squadron Three pose for *Saipan Tribune* right after yesterday's Memorial Day ceremony at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Local

Construction of Rota, Tinian road projects to start soon

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Works is expected to issue in the next few days a notice to proceed with the construction of two federally funded multi-million road projects on Tinian and Rota.

DPW Secretary Diego B. Songsong told *Saipan Tribune* that in a week or a week and a half, they will give the go-signal for the start of the Route 201 construction and improvement project on Tinian and the Route II Sabana Road and drainage improvement project on Rota.

"If we get all the required signatures, the construction of the two projects will commence anytime from now," Songsong said.

Maeda Pacific Corp. won the bidding for the construction of the Tinian project. The company was awarded the $1,385,000 project. Another $193,000 budget is intended for construction management services.

GPPC Inc. bagged the Rota construction project worth $2,788,800. Another $373,000 is budgeted for construction management services.

DPW Technical Services director Joseph Inos Jr. said the two projects are fully funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration.

As for the multi-million Cross Island project (Back Road reconstruction and expansion) on Saipan, Inos said they issued an addendum to indefinitely prolong the previous deadline schedules.

Inos said they gave the contractor additional time to procure construction management services.

"Right now we are working on acquiring a construction manager and getting their proper documents to get the contract going. Once we get the [construction manager] we can initiate the project's schedule," Inos said.

Under the federally funded Cross Island Project, a new four-lane highway will be built from San Vicente to Capital Hill.

Songsong said the project will require the demolition of the Round House in San Vicente and the construction of a traffic signal light.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Department of Public Works Secretary Diego B. Songsong points to the map of the Cross Island or Back Road improvement project as DPW Technical Services Director Joseph Inos Jr. looks on during an interview with Saipan Tribune last Friday.

Tinian son appointed to US Coast Guard Academy

After completing a year of preparatory school, Freddy Hofschneider III from Tinian, a 2008 Tinian High School graduate, successfully received his appointment to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy on May 16, 2009 at the New Mexico Military Institute located in Roswell, New Mexico.

Freddy Hofschneider III receives his certificate of completion from Rear Admiral David R. Ellison, U.S. Navy (retired), the superintendent of the New Mexico Military Institute.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hofschneider is the first from the CNMI to have attended the New Mexico Military Institute and was honored to provide the educational institution with the CNMI flag, which now joins the lines of flags representing the nationalities of the academy's students.

He made the Dean's List for both semesters and was awarded a Certificate of Excellence in Leadership.

Hofschneider, the son of Freddy Jr. and Rinenta Hofschneider of Tinian, will be reporting to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, located in New London, Connecticut on June 29, 2009. ***(PR)***

FITIAL'S

From Page 1

When asked for comment, press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. yesterday said, "Bergsma is taking some time off to focus on his practice" in San Diego, California.

"He has ties to the CNMI and wanted to help. The governor respects Bergsma's decision," Reyes said.

Bergsma was instrumental in helping the Fitial administration deal with NMI Retirement Fund issues, including the Defined Contribution Plan and the Defined Benefit Plan Reform Act, as well as issues relating to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. such as the CUC-Commonwealth Development Authority equity conversion agreement recently, Reyes said.

His resignation comes at a critical time because of the NMI Retirement Fund's ongoing lawsuit against the CNMI government over non-payment of employer contribution. Fitial wants a suspension of the ongoing court proceedings to make way for mediation, but the Fund board of trustees led by chairman Juan T. Guerrero said the parties to the case are way past the negotiation period.

Bergsma's resignation also comes at a time when the governor has difficulty naming a new attorney general, after the two individuals he had approached turned down his offer.

Reyes said it is possible that the governor may hire an attorney on a contractual basis to fill the void left by Bergsma.

One of the names being considered is former Attorney General Matthew Gregory who resigned in September 2008, but no decision or contract has been signed yet.

"Mr. Gregory, a former AG familiar with critical policy issues, and highly qualified, may be selected to fill that void at no additional cost or even at reduced cost compared to Bergsma's contract," Reyes added,

In 1985, U.S. President Reagan appointed Fitial to be the chairman of the NMI Commission on Federal Laws. Bergsma was one of the four other individuals that made up the commission.

Bergsma continued to help Fitial on tax-related issues even during the 14th Legislature.

Bergsma, who received his bachelor's degree with distinction in 1977 from George Washington University and earned his law degree from Harvard University in 1980, practices corporate law, international law, trusts and estates, and probate.

His involvement with the Northern Marianas started early on when he was admitted in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in 1982 and in the CNMI in 1985. He was president of the NMI Bar Association from 1989 to 1990. He is also a member of the San Diego County Bar Association and the State Bar of California.

FRENCH

From Page 1

Now 51, French said Saipan will always have a special place in his heart, not only because of his father's memory but the warmth of the people he has met since coming back here for the first time in November 2007 for a Veterans' Day ceremony.

French will be leaving the Marianas in July, to serve as the new commander of the Navy Region Southwest in San Diego, California. He will be replaced by Rear Admiral Douglass Biesel.

"When I came back early on, I had a chance to show the governor some of the pictures that my father took back in 1944," said French, a towering height among those who took part in yesterday's Memorial Day ceremony at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi yesterday.

One of those precious photos was taken from a high spot to cover the Saipan airport and Tinian.

"The governor looked at it and says, 'Oh I know exactly where that picture was taken from. It's taken from Mount Tapochao.' So we went up there and I was able to go find the same spot that my father stood to take a very similar picture over 60 years later," he said.

His father, the late Russell French, was with the U.S. Army Air Corps. The older French passed away in 1995.

Since coming back to the region in 2007 as an adult, French said he has brought his children here.

"What a unique place, great people, good culture. They make you feel part of their home, part of their community. Unfortunately, we are going to leave in July. We are going to miss the time we had in Micronesia, and the time here in the CNMI," he said.

French was also here during last year's Fourth of July parade.

Yesterday, French was the keynote speaker at the Memorial Day ceremony in Marpi.

"In the Pacific theater, and especially here on Saipan, we are fortunate to live in a place where appreciation for military heritage and respect for our veterans is deeply ingrained throughout the community," he said.

In an interview later on, French reiterated how special Saipan or the Marianas is not only for its military history but its present community.

He said Tinian still plays a key part in the U.S. military's training in this part of the region.

As he leaves his post in the Marianas, French said his tenure's achievement includes the relationship developed by the U.S. Navy with the leaders of the CNMI and Guam.

"Saipan and Guam are working toward some common objectives, whereby we can determine how to best leverage the buildup in support of Marine relocation from Okinawa to Guam in a way in which everyone can benefit…Job opportunities, revenue, both direct and indirect, a lot of good things that I think we set the groundwork for and now it's a matter of executing those," he said.

A 2006 agreement between the United States and Japan calls for the relocation of 8,000 U.S. Marines from bases in Japan to Guam by 2014. Construction related to the buildup has begun.

When asked whether he's disappointed that he's leaving the Marianas right when the military buildup is underway, French said: "That's a great question. Many people have asked me that. You know, we all get a chance to make a contribution and I feel I was part of the team who made a contribution that kind of got things rolling. I think things are in a place now where another team can do the same but a couple new players to move things forward."

French was commissioned through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps Program in May 1979.

In his 30 years in service, French received the Defense Superior Service Medal award, three awards of the Legion Merit, three Meritorious Service Medals, four Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, and two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals.

Currently, he is also the commander of the U.S. Naval Forces Marianas and the U.S. Defense Representative to Guam, the CNMI, Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia.

French said it's the people that he will miss most about Saipan.

Besides Mount Tapochao where he could look over Saipan, he also enjoys visiting the northern part of the island—from Banzai Cliff to Suicide Cliff.

"This island has done a good job in preserving it so it's really set aside for visitors and people to appreciate history," he said.

BETEL NUT

From Page 1

for betel nut every year, resulting in bigger imports from the two markets.

"The betel nut is a $9-million industry in the CNMI. Each year, we're seeing a growing demand for this produce…and we have no other means to sustain these demands but to get more from Yap and Pohnpei, especially in low season," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

The months of August to January are the peak season for betel nut production on the islands.

In the first four months of 2009, Cabrera said "a significant" demand was noted by the NMC-CREES—the highest recorded in many years.

"This year, we're seeing a much greater demand…the biggest we've seen in 15 years," Cabrera said.

"What we would like to happen… is to see all these dollars stay in the CNMI. Unfortunately, we're sharing the big pie with two other markets," he said.

Cabrera admitted that one major reason for the increase in demand of betel nut is the growing number of persons consuming the product, particularly students in public schools.

"We've seen a lot of young students in the elementary starting to chew betel nut…and we believe that's one major reason for the high demand nowadays," he said.

Although he believes that betel nut is not recommended for young kids, NMC-CREES has no authority to make any move to bar them from consuming the product.

He is also convinced that a significant portion of betel nut users could be classified as "addicted" to the product.

"Like cigarettes, one can be addicted to betel nut chewing…" he said.

Although local farmers and ranchers also plant betel nut in their farms, Cabrera said their production remains focused on vegetables and fruit supplies.

Aiding farmers in the production of betel nut are the "gardeners" who just plant the produce in their backyards.

"Some of these gardeners are producing more betel nuts than what the farmers produce in their farms…so they're helping address the demand," he said.

TO DIE

From Page 1

who were the first to be buried at the new cemetery, also offered prayers and fresh flowers during the hourlong ceremony.

Fitial said that holding the ceremony at the Veteran's Cemetery is fitting, considering the sacred nature of the Marpi site, where World War II battles took place.

"This is an historic area. Within close proximity of this site, you can find Banzai Cliff, the Last Command Post, and Suicide Cliff, where many lives were lost and where terrible tragedies took place nearly 65 years ago," he said.

The last two soldiers buried at the cemetery were U.S. Navy seaman Coy Lee Coleman on March 21 and Dolores P. Curley on April 4.

French emphasized the importance of instilling and deepening the Memorial Day tradition for future generations of Americans.

"We must forward the reverence we feel today through the other days of the year," he told some 300 people in attendance that included top government officials, veterans and their families, and the families of the fallen soldiers and guests.

French said the sacrifices of American soldiers allow everyone else to continue to enjoy the liberties and freedoms granted in the U.S. Constitution, which must be taught to others.

"We must help future generations understand that the act of committing yourself to your country and being willing to fight—and die—for the freedom of others is among the most noble endeavors," French said.

He suggested volunteering as a way of helping veterans who are still alive, assisting a family that is grieving the loss of a service member, or visiting those injured in order to help them rebuild their lives.

He also encouraged everyone to find ways to ensure that the legacy of these heroes would endure "in what has become a sound-bite culture."

He said these dedicated men and women are worth more than a 20-second sound-bite.

"In the Pacific theater, and especially here on Saipan, we are fortunate to live in a place where appreciation for military heritage and respect for our veterans is deeply ingrained throughout the community," said French.

He also advised not to forget to thank not only the fallen heroes but also those who are currently serving around the globe.

French said every family on Saipan has been affected by war in one way or another, whether losing a loved one in battle or knowing someone who has taken an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States.

"It is for them too that Memorial Day exists. It is a day of celebration to remember those who died serving our nation and a day of celebration to remember them and the freedoms they died to win, defend and preserve," French said.

He praised the CNMI's sons and daughter for stepping forward when the need for courage and selflessness were necessary throughout many of the conflicts that the U.S. went through.

"I stand before you today awed and humbled by the unyielding display of bravery and patriotism of the people from these islands," he said.

Retired U.S. Army Capt. John Camacho said that yesterday was a fine day to pay tribute to fallen comrades.

"We must keep working harder because there are more potential conflicts. Freedom has no price," he added.

Another retired U.S. Army servicemember, John Davis, thanked all the people who attended the ceremony.

Retired Green Beret Frank Cepeda urged people to reflect on all the sacrifices of fallen soldiers and living veterans.

Villagomez's argument vs Munson 'fanciful speculations'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. government described as "fanciful speculation" former Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez's argument that U.S. District Court for the NMI chief judge Alex R. Munson deliberately placed the prosecution's witnesses near the jurors as a ploy to persuade the jurors to convict.

Villagomez had claimed prejudice because of the placement of U.S. Marshals and security personnel inside the court, and because Munson did not allow Villagomez's supporters to sit within "direct eye contact" of, and in "close proximity" to the jury.

In the U.S. government's response to Villagomez's motion to disqualify Munson, Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley said the Sixth Amendment requires a trial judge to take reasonable measures to ensure that defendants get a fair trial that is free of prejudice and disruption.

"This may include restrictions placed on non-parties in his presence, as well as attorneys, parties, jurors, witnesses and court personnel outside the courtroom. A court may even exclude certain spectators altogether, provided there is a substantial reason," O'Malley said, citing precedents.

In this case, he said, the security measures taken by Munson were "reasonable and well within practices accepted by the U.S. Supreme Court and the Ninth Circuit."

Villagomez's lawyer, David J. Lujan, stated in the motion that during the entire course of the trial, Munson allowed at least three to four U.S. Marshals and three to four security personnel inside the courtroom, all allegedly protecting the individual jurors and "providing the appearance that defendants and their families and friends were threats to the jurors' safety."

Lujan said no family or family supporters of the defendants were allowed to sit behind the government section during the course of the trial.

Villagomez

Munson

Lujan said these actions created the impression of the defendants' prejudged guilt, and gave the government a strategic seating advantage—"to be in physical proximity to influence certain members of the jury."

He also cited Munson's alleged numerous comments demeaning the efforts of the defense counsel and reflecting his opinion regarding Villagomez.

He also alleged that the judge on several occasions helped the U.S. government in questioning witnesses and in the admission of evidence.

O'Malley said Villagomez's claim of unfair treatment "fails on its face."

O'Malley said the defendant gives no specific examples of unfair treatment, relying instead on counsel's "opinion" that the judge's demeanor was directed to the jury and was intended to imply guilt of the defendants.

He said it is the U.S. government's position that Munson acted with restraint in the face of the defense counsel's style of questioning, which was "repetitive, generally rude, often disrespectful, and at times offensive."

To the degree that the judge expressed "impatience, dissatisfaction, annoyance, or even anger" with the defense, it was well within the bounds allowed by the Supreme Court, he said.

The jurors convicted Villagomez, his sister Joaquina Santos, and his brother-in-law James Santos on April 24 of conspiracy to commit offenses against the U.S., wire fraud, theft concerning a program receiving federal funds, and bribery.

Estate heir asks court: Let ousted estate administrator pay for fees

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A claimant to an estate has asked the Superior Court to hold an ousted administrator liable to pay the attorney's fees and court costs he incurred in bringing to court the case that eventually resulted in the administrator being kicked out.

Jose C. Cabrera, heir/surviving spouse to the Rita C. Cabrera estate, asked the court to order the reimbursement for all fees and costs he incurred in removing Margaret C. Dela Cruz as estate administrator.

Jose C. Cabrera, through lawyer Robert T. Torres, asked that the Rita Cabrera estate be reimbursed for legal fees paid to former estate counsel, Edward Manibusan and Diane C. Cabrera.

He also asked for reimbursement for legal fees incurred or expended by Mrs. Dela Cruz in preparing the decree of final distribution and the inventory of estate assets.

In addition, he asked the court to order an accounting so that these costs can be determined and repaid to the Rita Cabrera estate.

Torres argued that requiring the estate and Jose C. Cabrera to bear the cost of Mrs. Dela Cruz's vendetta against her father and some of the other heirs "flies in the face of well-settled law." He said Mrs. Dela Cruz's actions were not only of no benefit to the estate but delayed its administration and cost it large sums.

"To allow so would be to reward such contumacious conduct and undermine the integrity of the probate process," Torres said.

According to court records, the Rita Cabrera estate probate opened in 2005. In 2006, citing the need to protect the rights of all heirs and ensure that the distribution of estate assets proceeded in accordance with law, Jose C. Cabrera filed a motion to remove Mrs. Dela Cruz as administrator of the estate. Last April, the Superior Court granted the motion.

The court ruled that the removal of Mrs. Dela Cruz was warranted on account of her "breaches of her fiduciary duties, intentional disregard for probate law, the possible commission of a crime, the disintegration of trust between the administrator and the heirs, and a showing of favoritism to one or more of the heirs to the detriment of other heirs."

The court found that since her appointment as administrator, Mrs. Dela Cruz had failed to recognize Jose C. Cabrera as an heir to the estate, despite his status as the decedent's surviving spouse.

The court noted that despite the plain language of the law and the advice of a lawyer, Mrs. Dela Cruz intentionally violated the probate law by proposing "to empty the family home which her father still lives in and leave him virtually nothing."

The court stated that in failing to perform an honest and thorough audit of Cabrera Center, Mrs. Dela Cruz further denied the estate money that it is owed.

The court also found outrageous Mrs. Dela Cruz's conduct in removing the decedent's remains and relocating them without consulting Jose C. Cabrera.

The court also found that Mrs. Dela Cruz's failure to abide by probate law and insistence on proceeding in accordance with her personal agenda has unnecessarily embroiled the estate in litigation and subjected estate assets to great expenses.

In Jose C. Cabrera's motion for attorney's fees and costs, Torres said that estate resources have been misused for the former administratrator's biased agenda and that she must bear the costs of that misconduct.

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27,000 hours volunteered to serve public school kids

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Public School System and the Board of Education lauded the achievement of members and volunteers of the CNMI Americorps Program, which had so far served and mentored nearly 5,000 children on Saipan, Rota and Tinian.

In a recognition ceremony Saturday, program director Geri Willis disclosed that its 60 members throughout the islands volunteered a total of 27,000 hours to tutor Kindergarten, elementary and junior high school students in public schools.

The Americorps program started in the Commonwealth in 2006, for which the CNMI got $1.6 million in federal grant spread out over three years. This year is the last tranche of the grant.

Since the program's inception, Gillis said the number of volunteers substantially increased every year.

In the program's first year, PSS tapped 45 members and 45 volunteers. This went up to 60 and over 2,000 volunteers in the next program year. At present, besides the 60 members who served 27,000 hours in just eight months, the program also recorded over 5,000 volunteers from the community.

Members, composed of senior students, tutors younger students and provide them enrichment and service learning activities.

Among the top performing members were Rachel Rangamar, who served 777 hours; Cherish Jastillana, 774 hours; Edibhy Sampang, 766 hours; Leonila Sablan, 754; Ronica Atalig, 736; Xiao Tian Falig, 733; Lyza Lacsina, 715; So Young Lee, 688; Barry Toves, 583; Viony Lynn Hocog, 533; and Leticia Guzman, 477 hours.

All members and volunteers were awarded certificates and plaques of appreciation, Americorp pin, portfolio, and gift items during the recognition rites held Saturday at Hyatt Regency.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, who was among the event's guests, commended the students, volunteers, school administrators and site supervisors for their commitment to student learning.

"This event is to honor the achievements and commitments of our hardworking members and volunteers in providing tutorial services and other educational activities in school sites," she said, commending Willis for her outstanding support for the program.

Sablan said it's her hope to see greater participation and expansion of the program in the years ahead. She disclosed that since the graduation credit requirements for senior students was increased from 21 to 28 units, some members are finding it more difficult to volunteer more time for the program.

Willis disclosed that PSS had submitted an application to renew its three-year cycle grant and had tapped one new federal grant that may provide $1.3 million for the program's expansion.

"We're very optimistic," she told *Saipan Tribune,* adding that if PSS is lucky to get the $1.3 million grant, it would be used in providing scholarship to members.

PSS also plans to use the new money to provide additional $225 stipend for each member. Currently, 60 members are provided a $350 monthly stipend for their services.

The AmeriCorps is federally funded through a grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service, which waives the AmeriCorps matching requirements for all territories, including the CNMI.

Its purpose is to promote community service and develop dedicated role models for the local community.

Besides the stipend for members, they also qualify for an education award of $2,362 if they successfully complete 900 hours of service within the year.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Guest workers from Burma hold photographs of detained Aung San Suu Kyi and candles during a mini prayer rally for her at the Pacific Islands Club Beach last Sunday afternoon.

Burmese on Saipan pray for detained Aung San Suu Kyi

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Seven guest workers from Burma held a mini prayer rally Sunday afternoon at the Pacific Islands Club's beach side in support of political detainee Aung San Suu Kyi.

Wearing t-shirts with printed photographs of Suu Kyi and holding placards, the group spent several minutes praying for Asia's most prominent female political prisoner.

"She has been in prison for over 13 years. We pray for her freedom. This is the only thing we can do now,' said Shwe Zin Win, who organized the mini prayer rally.

Shwe said a total of nine Burmese nationals are currently working on Saipan, mostly in hotels and restaurants.

Ohn Khin, a mechanical engineer, was the first to arrive on Saipan and has been here for 20 years. Unfortunately, he could not make it in time for the prayer offerings.

"Some of us are here for 10-15 years," said Shwe, who worked at Palms Resort for 10 years. She just came from Japan, where she has been staying for the past six years.

The others who attended the prayer rally were Ah Yu Win, Maung San Din, Sein Nyant, Aung Ko Ko Than, Sabe Thin and Zaw Moe.

They prayed that Suu Kyi San will have the strength to overcome her adversities and lead her people to win "our country's freedom of speech" so that their voice may be heard.

Suu Kyi is a pro-democracy activist and leader of the National League for Democracy in Burma. She won the right to be Burma's Prime Minister in the last free election in 1990 but the military junta prevented her from assuming that role. She is currently under house arrest.

She is an advocate for nonviolent resistance that led to her Nobel Peace Prize award in 1991.

Burma has been renamed Myanmar by the military junta but many governments do not recognize the legitimacy of the name change.

Heinz-Arnold tandem is not counting its chicks just yet

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The team of Heinz Hofschneider and Arnold Palacios will not take anything for granted and will continue working until all votes are counted in the primary election.

Palacios told reporters this on Saturday, emphasizing the important role of the primary in this year's gubernatorial race.

Hofschneider

Palacios

The Heinz-Palacios tandem will face Juan N. Babauta and Galvin Deleon Guerrero in the June 27 primary election set by the local Republican Party.

"We are working very hard for this primary and we're not underestimating anyone and taking anything for granted. We continue to talk and seek the people's support for us," Palacios said.

Even prior to announcing their bids, Palacios said they have been visiting villages and talking with people on several issues. He described people as very receptive to their team, whether on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

"A lot of people or most of the people we talked are receptive… even those who already committed themselves to other candidates. We are truly grateful to them because they provided us the time and opportunity to talk and approach them," he said.

He declined to speak when asked about his team's edge over the opposing team, merely saying that he and Hofschneider "continue to work."

He disclosed that besides the weekend visits to villages, they also spared a couple of hours meeting with people after each day's official work.

Last Saturday morning, he talked with Precinct 2 voters before attending the Northern Marianas College graduation.

"We will not stop working until the votes are counted after the June 27th," he said.

The Heinz-Palacios team is hoping for a "fairly good turnout" during the primary.

NMC-CREES sees future local food export to Korea

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research Extension and Education Services is looking at the possibility of exporting local food products to South Korea in the future following a recent visit to agricultural facilities there.

Dr. In-Young Lee led a five-man team on a six-day tour of modern food processing facilities in Korea from May 11 to 16. The team also included NMC-CREES director Ross Manglona, agricultural consultant Isidoro Cabrera, and Dr. Dilip Nandwani and Felix Calvo.

The fact-finding tour included food processing, value-added produce, food safety systems, crop production, and the use of scientific techniques.

The team had a chance to visit the National Academy of Agriculture Science of the Korean Rural Development Administration and the Small Business Incubation Center.

"We were able to see high levels of technology such as using gamma rays to process their food exports but we cannot yet use that here because it is too expensive," said Cabrera.

He said the best method that can be applied in the CNMI is fumigation, which is less expensive.

"We are really looking at the possibility of exporting our local products using fumigation rather than the highly advanced scientific methods," Cabrera said.

The local foods, he said, could be fresh foods or other locally grown agricultural products that can be processed for exports like grape juice or wine.

The team also visited the Dae-Jeon Agricultural Trade Center and the Korea Advanced Radiation Technology Institute.

They also toured the seafood market of the National Federation of Fisheries Cooperatives, the Young-Dong University Regional Bio-renovation Center and Grape Juice and Wine Manufacturing Facilities, and the Commercial Gamma Irradiation Facility.

Last month, NMC-CREES officials and staff toured several major agricultural facilities in Metro Manila and the provinces of Laguna and Leyte in the Philippines for a similar purpose.

Welcome
Northern Marianas College, CREES
Mr. Ross Manglona, Director of CRREES
Rural Development Administration www.rda.go.kr 2009. 5. 11

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Dr. in-young Lee, NMC-CREES fact-finding team leader; Dr. Jang Kim of Korea's Rural Development Administration, NMC-CREES director Ross Manglona, consultant Isidoro Cabrera, Felix S. Calvo of Tinian and Dr. Dilip Nandwani.

28 new graduates hired as classroom teachers

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

All 28 students who graduated Saturday from the Northern Marianas College with bachelor degrees in Elementary Education would be hired as classroom teachers beginning school year 2009-2010, or in September.

This was announced by Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan during Saturday's 29th NMC commencement rites where she was the occasion's keynote speaker.

"You all have a job after this moment," she announced to the crowd, adding that the Public School System provides a competitive salary and benefit package.

From a starting annual pay of $30,000, the commissioner said the new teachers could be paid up to maximum of $47,000 as they enrich and enhance their capabilities as educators.

PSS currently has 519 teachers for its nearly 11,000 students from Kindergarten to 12th grade on all three islands.

By adding the new graduates to its workforce, PSS believes this will solve the ongoing lack of teachers in many schools that has resulted in overcrowding and large class size ratio.

Sablan said graduates in the early childhood certificate program could also assist and fill the many positions needed at public schools such as the related service providers.

Before becoming the education commissioner, Sablan has been a classroom teacher, vice principal, principal, and associate commissioner for instruction and curriculum at PSS, with more than two decades in the education industry under her belt.

She recalled that it was in 1979 when she pursued her journey of higher education in Nebraska, recalling how she started as a classroom teacher to elementary kids. When she retired, she said "my heart never left the classroom."

"That's something I cherish in my life," she told the crowd.

For those who completed their certificate programs, Sablan encouraged them to invest in education and take the next step by enrolling for their degrees.

For those entering the workforce, the commissioner encouraged them to work and perform with passion and be realistic about what's the real situation around them.

In deciding on their next direction, she said: "Consult not your feelings…but your hopes and dreams."

New graduates Lourdes Liane Hart and Keoni DLG. Ichihara said they are excited to begin their "journey." The two will join teachers at William S. Reyes Elementary School.

WSR Principal Lynnette Villagomez on Saturday said that five new teachers were recruited and hired from this year's batch of graduates.

"All of them will start in the new school year at our school… so we're excited to work with them," the principal told *Saipan Tribune.*

After two years , ACT more active than ever

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Association of Commonwealth Teachers has successfully hurdled the tumult of the last two years and has initiated a number of actions and activities that has earned it the trust of the public and the Board of Education, according to outgoing president Betty Miller.

She said the past two years have been a whirlwind of activity for the association—all with the goal of creating an active and well-organized group. These included coming up with a list of top priorities such as increasing communication among teachers, encouraging teachers to stay informed and get involved, and rebuilding the image of ACT with the Board of Education and the public.

To accomplish these goals, Miller said the ACT leadership worked hard to put members' differences aside and work together for the common good.

Among the achievements and improvements noted by the organization in the last two years are:

■ the establishment of a teacher's website with current events, links, photos, and a teachers' blog;

■ an extensive bylaw revision process with input from all interested members;

■ providing advance notice to teachers regarding BOE meetings;

■ the attendance of at least one ACT officer at all BOE meetings with minutes sent from the meetings to all members; and meetings with the Public School System leadership and/or the Board of Education regarding teacher concerns.

Miller said the meetings with the PSS leadership and the board resulted in a closer examination of health and safety concerns in schools, Praxis compensation for Step 11 employees, additional time allowed for ESL teachers on the Praxis exams, and most recently the re-evaluation of required Praxis II passing scores.

ACT also conducted a pre-election roundtable on education with candidates for all offices and interested members of the community last year. It also held workshops and meetings with non-highly qualified teachers to better assist them in becoming highly qualified, and continued the dialogue with the governor and the Education Board regarding the appointment of a teacher representative to the BOE.

In addition to these, members of ACT have been quietly working behind the scenes in support of various community activities such as PAWS Kids Night Out, CAMI Children's Party, Operation Homefront Support, Education Day public wavings, and Developmental Disability Month Activities.

Miller said she was honored and privileged to serve public school teachers for two years.

"It has been an honor and privilege to serve the teachers of the CNMI as ACT president. This is a terrific organization, and a wonderful way for teachers to stay informed and get involved. Although there is still much to do, I have no doubt my successor will be well equipped to continue down the positive path the members have chosen. I offer my congratulations to whomever the teachers select, and will be happy to provide support in any way requested," she said.

'Election extended'

Last week's election for new ACT officers was extended through this week to give more teacher time to participate.

Ballots are expected until Friday, May 29.

Miller said teachers from Rota and Tinian are welcome to email their votes to cnmiactnow@gmail.com.

"While there is only one candidate for each office on the ballot, we sincerely hope **all** student contact personnel will take time to vote. Voters can either express support for the candidate on the ballot or they are welcome to write in a candidate. It is not necessary to be a member of ACT to vote in this election," she said.

Sam Joyner is so far the sole candidate for the position and most likely would succeed Miller in the organization.

Miller is the acting vice principal of San Vicente Elementary School.

Honor scholarship awardees facing grant cuts

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Recipients of the Honor scholarship grants are facing cuts in their financial awards as a result of the limited budget provided to the NMI Scholarship Office.

Scholarship board chairwoman Lynnette Villagomez confirmed this with the Saipan Tribune, adding that the board is now working on amending the board's policies and regulations.

At present, the Scholarship board provides up to $1,500 to each honor scholar.

The Scholarship Office received only $3.3 million as its budget this fiscal year. This does not include the 5.5 percent across-the-board cost-cutting measure enforced by the Fitial administration.

About $400,000 of the Scholarship Office's budget goes to the honor scholarship program each year.

"Yes, we do have plans to make amendments to the regulations and rules…and we are currently working on that. The board has decided to first look and revisit the honor scholarship program," Villagomez told *Saipan Tribune*. "We have to look at our budget. Although we are in continuing resolution, there is a reduction of 5 percent. The CNMI Scholarship Office always work within its means and in this case…we need to consider what we have in our budget."

Although Villagomez assured that they will also consider other programs, the board's priority is to make the changes in the Honor scholarship.

She declined to comment when asked how much they would cut. "We're still discussing it."

Early this year, the Scholarship Office disclosed that its current budget may not able to sustain operations and assistance for all programs and it may consider cutting the financial awards, if the need arises.

Of the office's $3.3 million budget, only nearly $50,000 is taken out for the wages of two personnel—the administrator and a staffer.

Besides the Honor scholarship, the office is administers the educational assistance program, which has a total of 1,090 recipients receiving $3,960 a year. It has also 10 recipients of the teacher scholarship award, which grants $700 annually.

In an earlier interview with Esther Fleming, special assistant for administration and acting Office of Management and Budget director, she said the scholarship budget is expected to remain on "status quo" until the next fiscal year or until the administration generates enough revenue.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
IFB 09-019

"40 Desktop Computers and Related Equipment for San Vicente Elementary School"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids **for** the purchase of **40 Desktop Computers for San Vicente Elementary School.** The Scope of Work is available at PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd Floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids must be placed in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB 09-019"** containing one (1) original with Three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd Floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **June 02, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.,** at which time bids, will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Questions shall be in writing addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement & Supply officer or Email to the following address: **florian@saipan.com**.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-DOF-102

SUBMISSION: JUNE 05, 2009 • TIME: 11:00 A.M.
OPENING: JUNE 05, 2009 • TIME: 1:00 P.M.

"SALE OF GOVERNMENT PERSONAL PROPERTIES"

INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK UP THE SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

BIDDER(S) IS CAUTION TO INSPECT THE PROPERTY(S).

INSPECTION DATE IS SCHEDULE FROM **MAY 18, 2009 THRU JUNE 04, 2009 FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.,** EXCEPT WEEKENDS & HOLIDAYS.

/s/ **ROBERT A. SCHRACK**
ACTING SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE FINANCIAL & INSURANCE SERVICES GROUP, INC.,	:	CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0142
Plaintiff,	:	
-v-	:	
RAMON T. METTAO and SURINE N. METTAO	:	
Defendants.	:	

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, the Plaintiff's Attorneys, whose address is P.O. Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filling your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above court:

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

DATED, this 9th day of May, 2009:

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Teachers, parents, and students of the Saipan Seventh-day Adventist School pose for a group picture after the 4th Annual Walk-A-Thon Fundraiser on April 17.

SDA school walks for new campus

Through 3,528 laps, the students of the Saipan Seventh-day Adventist School stepped closer toward a new campus. The Saipan SDA School held it's 4th Annual Walk-A-Thon Fundraiser on April 17, and raised $1,877.29 for a new school site.

The event was held at American Memorial Park and involved students collecting pledge amounts for the number of laps they walked during the event. Students were appreciated for their participation and were awarded prizes for their achievements.

The following students were awarded prizes for walking the most laps:

■ 1st Place – Michitaka Yoshida (9th Grade) – Walked 100 laps

■ 2nd Place – Andrei Woodruff (6th Grade) – Walked 85 laps

■ 3rd Place – Alex Lin (4th Grade) – Walked 82 laps

The following students were awarded prizes for raising the most funds:

■ 1st Place – Danielle Zayco (4th Grade) – Raised $360

■ 2nd Place – Arthur Manglona (Pre-Kindergarten) – Raised $170

■ 3rd Place – Andrei Woodruff (6th Grade) – Raised $165.01

School principal Barbara Maycock said the school plans to continue the walkathon fundraiser.

"The walkathon is a great way to get our students involved in building our future. By participating in this event, our students are not just doing something good financially for our school, but doing something physically good for themselves through walking," she said. "One of the goals of our school is to educate our students about healthy living through habitual exercise."

Maycock feels confident that the school will reach its goal of relocating to a new campus. The school is looking for a site that is central on the island to provide more space and enable expansion to a 12th grade curriculum.

The school is currently located in two separate campuses—the Child Development Center is located in San Jose and the elementary campus—Kindergarten to 10th grade—is in San Antonio.

The SDA School is part of a worldwide educational system run by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, with over 1 million students from primary to university levels.

Overall top fundraiser student winner Danielle Zayco said she likes the walkathon fundraiser because it gives her a chance to exercise and be healthy. "It's a good idea to move our school, so our whole school can be together," she added.

Through the four walkathon fundraisers, the SDA students themselves have raised a total of $8,633.99 for a new campus. Other funds raised include Education Tax Credit donations from local CNMI business. The school is putting 50 percent of all ETC funds raised toward a new campus.

The school staff and board of directors expressed appreciation for the business community's involvement in this year's walkathon in providing prizes, materials, and funds toward this event. ***(PR)***

4 small Pacific states get regular shipping services

The Kiribati Shipping Services Limited has formally signed an agreement with the governments of Nauru, Tuvalu, Kiribati and Wallis and Futuna to provide regular feeder shipping services to these countries.

The four small island states in the region have been confronted with irregular shipping services in the past three years.

In applauding the signing, KSSL general manager Itibwinnang Aiaimoa said this was a profitable venture for the company.

"We were providing services in the past but they were inconsistent and irregular and this was due to a lack of commitment because there were no formal agreements in place to coerce the provision of services as required," Aiaimoa said.

The company, which has been in existence since 1979, has two feeder ships and will provide services once a month that will be dictated by the routes the cargoes demand and the volume of the cargo to be carried across from one island state to another.

Aiaimoa said KSSL had been contemplating providing shipping services to SIS since 2007.

"We have been providing shipping services through Fiji since then, carrying cargo to Tuvalu, Nauru and to the Kiribati. And we continued this service even though they were irregular and sometimes with very little cargo," he said.

The agreement will also mean much needed income for KSSL.

"The company is government-owned but we do not enjoy subsidies anymore. We have to earn our existence and sustain our services," he said. ***(Secretariat of the Pacific Community)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Birthday greetings go out to Jayce Emmalin Jurado who is celebrating her 18th birthday today! From all your family and friends!

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 26, 1999

DOF asked to probe prepaid phone cards

Lawmakers have asked the Department of Finance to clamp down on unlicensed businesses selling prepaid phone cards and operating remittance service in the Commonwealth which proliferation have resulted in huge losses in revenues for the cash-strapped government. Rep. David M. Apatang, chair of the House committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, has instructed the DOF to investigate the proliferation of these companies for possible violations of existing tax laws. He has met with officials of the Revenue and Taxation Division as well executives of major telecommunication firms in the island to discuss the problems that have grown in recent months due to absence of laws to regulate the two business fields.

House poised to scrap govt housing perks

The House of Representatives yesterday moved closer to voting on a proposal scrapping housing benefits to all public sector employees, including those recruited from the mainland, in efforts to reduce expenditures of the government by at least $2 million annually. Offered by Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez, the initial bill was overhauled by the House committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations which removed a separate proposal imposing salary caps. In its report adopted by the House at yesterday's session, the committee said the housing benefits granted to some government employees is "unnecessary, costly, discriminatory and subject to abuse."

May 26, 2000

Lang to CUC: Force govt to pay bills

Warning that the mounting utility bills incurred by the government is hurting the image of the CNMI to potential investors and financial institutions, former Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio has urged anew the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to pressure the present administration to settle its $12 million debt. Amid its crucial action on the controversial Saipan power project, the CUC board is again a target of criticisms from the former governor over its handling of the government's outstanding balance and the request for discounted power rate by the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

CUC to select 80-MW contractor today

Three top bidders on the long-delayed power project on Saipan will have the chance to win the $120 million contract as the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation starts its negotiations with each of them after today's highly anticipated board decision. Six board directors of the government-owned utility corporation are expected to voice their votes on the fate of the proposed 80-megawatt power plant -- a move that will bring the project to its next phase almost three years since its procurement began. The board is likely to "temporarily" award the lucrative contract to three highest-ranking proposers: Enron, the Tomen Consortium and the Saipan Power Partners/Hawaiian Electric Inc., according to a source privy to the current discussion.

May 26, 2003

NMI, Guam hold conference call on SARS

CNMI Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio and Guam Rep. Madeleine Z. Bordallo held a telephone conference call last May 22 for health officials from Guam and the CNMI with the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta and the Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, D.C. to discuss federal and local preparedness for an outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome. "The primary purpose of this call was to provide an opportunity for local officials to raise concerns regarding SARS with federal health officials and to discuss the resources available to Guam and the CNMI in the event of an outbreak," said Bordallo.

Wright: Discrimination lawsuit 'absurd'

Northern Marianas College president Kenneth Wright described as "absurd" the discrimination lawsuit that was filed against him by a former NMC director. "It's an absurd accusation," said Wright when asked to comment on the suit filed against him by terminated NMC director Jack Angello. The case is with the federal court. "It's a lawsuit that accuses me of discrimination. The person filing the case is male, 56 years old, and white. I'm white, and older than he is, and I'm male. So its difficult for me to understand how I could have discriminated against him," Wright said, adding that he is ready to defend himself in court.

Minimum wage rate in CNMI rises to $4.55 today

WASHINGTON—The federal minimum wage will increase for employees in American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, effective May 25 and May 26 respectively.

With the increase, the new minimum wage rates in American Samoa, which vary by industry, will range from $4.18 for garment manufacturing to $5.59 for certain types of shipping and transportation.

Employees who work in the CNMI can expect to receive $4.55 per hour.

"With this next phased increase, workers in American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are on their way to receiving the same minimum wage as mainland workers," said Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis. "The Department of Labor is committed to ensuring vulnerable minimum wage workers receive the full protection of the law."

The Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 amended the Fair Labor Standards Act, increasing the general federal minimum wage in three steps: from $5.85 per hour effective July 24, 2007; to $6.55 per hour effective July 24, 2008; and to $7.25 per hour effective July 24, 2009.

A separate provision of the amendments brought about phased increases to the minimum wages in American Samoa and the CNMI. Under this provision, the minimum rates in these territories increase 50 cents an hour each May until they reach the minimum wage generally applicable in the U.S. Increases occur each year in American Samoa on May 25 and in the CNMI, which is across the international dateline, on May 26.

Prior to the FLSA amendment, special industry committees that met biennially set the minimum wage rates in American Samoa.

In addition, before enactment of the FLSA amendment, the CNMI government, under the authority of a covenant between the people of the Northern Marianas and the U.S. Congress, set the CNMI minimum wage. The overtime, youth employment and recordkeeping provisions of the FLSA were already applicable to CNMI before the change, and they have continued to apply as before.

The Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division, which enforces the FLSA, has updated compliance assistance information on its Web site at www.wagehour.dol.gov. Every employer subject to the FLSA minimum wage provisions must post, and keep posted, a notice explaining the FLSA's provisions in all of its establishments so that employees are readily able to read it.

Employers and employees seeking more compliance information on the new minimum wage rates in American Samoa and the CNMI may call the Wage and Hour Division's Honolulu District Office at 808-541-1361. Fact sheets and further guidance are available on the division's Web site.

Delay

American Samoa Gov. Togiola Tulafono has asked Congress to delay the implementation of higher wage minimums in the U.S. territory, saying the rising wages have already pushed one tuna cannery out of business and may force the shutdown of another.

The governor wrote U.S. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, chairman of the Senate's labor committee, asking lawmakers to postpone the May 2010 wage increase for one year.

Tulafono, in a letter dated May 12 and released last week, explained to Kennedy, D-Mass., that Chicken of the Sea International plans to shut down its COS Samoa Packing plant at the end of September, laying off 2,172 workers.

Chicken of the Sea is due to move its tuna-processing work to Vietnam, where the hourly pay is less than 70 cents, he said.

The governor said the territory's other cannery, StarKist Samoa, which is owned by Dongwon Enterprise Co. of South Korea, plans to eliminate 20 full-time salaried positions and trim hourly workers to cut costs.

The continued operation of the remaining fish processor in the territory is highly doubtful, Tulafono said.

The fish-canning industry directly and indirectly accounts for nearly three-fifths of all economic activity in American Samoa.

The minimum wage for American Samoa's tuna canneries—the largest employer in the territory—increased from $4.26 to $4.76 per hour yesterday. Workers in government jobs saw their hourly minimum wage rise from $3.91 to $4.41.

Tulafono said delaying the May 2010 wage hike would give Congress time to evaluate the results of a Government Accountability Office report on how the increases have affected American Samoa and the CNMI.

That report is due April 15, 2010. ***(With AP)***

Convicted wife beater faces stealing, forgery charges

A convicted wife-beater is facing new charges, this time for allegedly stealing and forging a child tax refund check.

The Attorney General's Office charged 41-year-old Teksiter Sachuo with forgery and theft.

Chief Prosecutor Kevin Lynch stated in the charging information that on Nov. 25, 2008 Sachuo stole a child tax refund check amounting to $486.

That same day, Sachuo forged a check that was issued to Hespinan Sachuo and Irene Romono, Lynch said.

No other details were given in the charging information.

In January 2006, Sachuo pleaded guilty to punching his wife in the mouth. The Superior Court sentenced him to three days in jail with credit for the time he has already served in prison. He was placed on one year probation.

In January 2007, Sachuo was arrested again for allegedly punching his wife in the back during an argument at their house in Upper Miha in Garapan.

The argument began when their son asked for some school supplies. The defendant allegedly got mad when his wife confronted him twice for refusing to buy the school supplies. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Veterans' clinic to rise on Saipan this year

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The presence of a Veterans Administration outreach clinic right in their doorsteps has long been a dream for veterans in the Northern Marianas.

That dream will soon be realized, according to Ruth A. Coleman during yesterday's annual Memorial Day celebration at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi.

Coleman announced that a VA outreach clinic would be available on Saipan by the end of this year.

"We honor our war dead as we provide medical care to more veterans than ever before and continue to improve the quality of that care," Coleman said.

By next year, Coleman said the veterans would no longer spend for airfare to a VA medical facility in the U.S. mainland or Hawaii to avail of the outreach program.

Coleman also said veterans will continue to get compensation for disabilities incurred during their service and pensions for their widows and orphans "as Lincoln so eloquently put it."

Coleman said VA will continue to assist the veterans' return to civilian life with housing, educational and employment assistance.

"And we honor that memory by the national cemetery system, like this cemetery, to insure that every veteran has the opportunity for interment in a shrine when his or her time comes," she said.

She said cemeteries around the world are dedicated to brave Americans cut down in their prime, doing what American soldiers, sailors, Marines, airmen and Coast Guardsmen do, stepping in harm's way between the forces of tyranny and aggression for America and its freedom loving citizens."

She said Memorial Day is not only to remember the dead but for those who are living, including those who are working with the Veterans Affairs Office.

There are an estimated 23 million veterans who are still alive, over a thousand of them here in the CNMI.

Enhanced firearms training for local police in June

CNMI Range Master Ambrosio T. Ogumoro and senior firearm instructor David M. Hosono recently completed the Firearm Instructor Update Recertification at the Smith and Wesson Academy in Massachusetts.

Ogumoro said he would continue to enforce and regulate civilian firearms in the Commonwealth, pointing out that since he became the CNMI Range Master, there has been a substantial reduction in the number of unregistered firearms owned by civilian gun owners. From about 800, there are now less than 200 unregistered firearms in the CNMI.

Ogumoro said his priority now is to conduct Phase II training for all police officers in the CNMI, scheduled to start in June 2009. The Phase II training will consist of classroom marksmanship, safety instructions, proficiency and tactical training.

With the support of DPS Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela, Ogumoro said he is also collaborating with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's firearm instructor in the final selection of a Police SWAT Team in the CNMI.

Ogumoro expressed surprised, though, to learn that the Department of Homeland Security is scheduled to bring in four firearm instructors from the U.S. mainland to train 30 police officers on Saipan for a week of SWAT training, at a total expense of $87,000.

"Instead of spending $87,000 for the four instructors from the U.S. mainland, that money would be best spent on our police officers from Tinian and Rota to come to Saipan and join the combined SWAT training that will be assisted by the FBI firearms instructor," he said. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

1st
Friendly Golf Tournament
모두투어
MODE TOUR
May 30
2009
at 8:00am
Mode Tour's
The First Friendly Golf Tournament
Date: May 30, 2009 8:00am
* Registration time: 7:30am
Place: Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort (WEST)
Entry fee: $60
* Green fee and banquet at PIC are included
PRIZE
1st place: R-trip ticket Saipan<->Guam 2pax (Freedom air)
2nd place: 2nights accomodation coupon at Saipan PIC (with BF)
3rd place: R-trip ticket Saipan<->Rota 2pax
Hole-in-one #3 hole DFS gifts $500-value
#17 hole Monte Vista restaurant dinner coupon $500 value
#7 hole Rota resort 2 nights (including R-trip ticket for 2 people and 2day-unlimited-rounding at Rota resort
More prize for many other events (longest, nearest, etc.)
Game would be based on shot-gun, new perio method.
Name:
Handicap:
Address (optional):
Business/organization(optional):
Phone:
Please submit the application form to Mode Tour office located at 2nd floor, Cabrera Center, Beach Rd, Garapan between 9:00am~6:00pm by May 28, 2009
For any questions or information, please call us at 234-7288(KR) 235-4488(ENG) * Fax235-2780
Souvenir would be provided for all entry: NIKE ball set (golf ball 6pcs+T-shirt+ball marker)
Host by
MODE TOUR
Support by
Saipan Tinian Rota
ASIANA AIRLINES
PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

The bounds of war

"We are indeed at war with al-Qaida and its affiliates. We do need to update our institutions to deal with this threat. But we must do so with an abiding confidence in the rule of law and due process, in checks and balances and accountability."

This lucid declaration by President Obama Thursday perfectly outlined the challenges facing a nation battling a violent, nonstate enemy. By framing the matter in the context of war, Obama correctly acknowledged the limitations of traditional law enforcement tools and venues to contain and bring to justice those who would harm the United States. Yet he repudiated what he called the Bush administration's "ad hoc," the-ends-justify-the-means approach and spoke eloquently about the need to craft legitimate and effective legal structures that give meaningful rights to the accused while protecting the country's national security interests.

Obama spoke in greatest detail about his plans for dealing with the 240 detainees held at the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Batting aside the fear-mongering of lawmakers who this week withheld funds to close the detention center, Obama made clear that any detainees brought to the United States would be held in the highest-security prisons—from which no inmate has ever escaped. Those who can be prosecuted in federal court, Obama said, will be tried there. Those who are accused of violating the laws of war will be tried before military commissions that Obama has vowed to revamp with extra legal protections for defendants. In perhaps the most controversial proposal—but one that the president is right to consider—Obama said that he would work with Congress to craft a legal regime to provide for the detention of suspects who are deemed too dangerous for release but against whom there is not enough admissible evidence to bring formal charges.

Obama is criticized for both sides of his equation. From the left, some deny that the battle against al-Qaida should be considered in the context of the law of war. From the right, critics suggest that to construct fair rules or demand accountability in the conduct of that war will hamstring the nation's defense. The Bush administration understood the first half but stubbornly refused to work with Congress to establish the necessary institutions; the result was years of false starts, immoral behavior and terrible blows to America's reputation. Former vice president Dick Cheney's rebuttal speech Thursday not only failed to acknowledge his administration's failures but falsely posited the national security choice as one between a "comprehensive strategy (that) has worked" and a view that Sept. 11, 2001, "was a one-off event ... not sufficient to justify a sustained wartime effort."

Obama's wisdom lies in accepting the reality of war but insisting that it can be fought in fidelity to U.S. values. Thursday, he spelled out the crucial difference. "I want to be very clear that our goal is to construct a legitimate legal framework for the remaining Guantanamo detainees that cannot be transferred," he said. "Our goal is not to avoid a legitimate legal framework."

(c) 2009, The Washington Post

The money in our mattresses

By DAVID M. SMICK
Special to The Washington Post

*David M. Smick is a global financial strategist and the author, most recently, of T*he World Is Curved: Hidden Dangers to the Global Economy.

There is a reason people say to beware what you wish for because you may get it.

For years, the world has wanted Americans to consume less and to save more. They are getting their wish. The U.S. savings rate, near zero less than a year ago, has soared to nearly 5 percent of income and could go higher. Total personal savings jumped from $20 billion in the first quarter of 2008 to a whopping $453 billion during the same period of 2009. The real danger is if the savings rate goes to 7 or 8 percent. If that happens, economic recovery could be seriously delayed.

When financial markets are working efficiently, saving is a good thing. At this point, however, with major U.S. industries at risk of complete meltdown, Americans desperately need to consume. Yet households are in a totally defensive mode because the meltdown to date has destroyed $14 trillion of their wealth. They have been saving like never before.

Consumption comprises 70 percent of our economy. While the reckless, overleveraged consumption habits of the past hardly made sense, the fear now is that American consumption patterns are on a long-term decline. That means potential economic growth in years ahead could be stunningly low (unless the financial system miraculously recovers and business investment picks up the slack).

The role of upper-income earners has become crucial to savings. There is an undeniable "trickle down" aspect to the workings of our economy. Like it or not, those making more than $100,000 a year are responsible for half of retail sales and 70 percent of the profit margins at retail, according to a study by American Express Publishing and the Harrison Group marketing and research firm. Suddenly, because of the economic meltdown, this group has become highly cautious about spending. Their savings rate has soared, the study reported.

The question is whether Washington is politically demonizing the very folks capable of leading us out of the recession. Affluent Americans have become the new political whipping boy. They are perceived as the illegitimate recipients of the ill-gotten proceeds of financial liberalization and are about to face stiff increases in taxation.

Nobody likes the rich, yet there are serious policy questions about whether Washington's latest political fad of class warfare is on a collision course with the goal of economic recovery. The annual affluence study by Ipsos Mendelsohn found that while the economy and climate change are of primary importance to average-income earners, taxes have become a major concern to suddenly cautious high-income earners. Moreover, this group, according to the data, is ironically finding pleasure in their new "be more like my neighbors" mentality as they draw their purse strings tighter.

A related question centers on the degree to which upper-income earners are worried about today's ballooning national debt. Federal spending next year will reach 28 percent of gross domestic product. It has exceeded 25 percent of GDP only four times in U.S. history. When economic historians look back at this period, it will be enlightening to see whether today's debt explosion was responsible for high-income earners significantly increasing their saving in anticipation of potential tax and inflationary changes resulting from the debt.

American consumers are retrenching and saving frantically, with high-income earners leading the way. The banks are barely lending and exports have collapsed. That leaves one option for stimulating demand in the event that the economy fails to fully recover: more fiscal stimulus. With congressional midterm elections less than a year away, a second fiscal stimulus in early 2010 hardly seems out of the question.

This is where our policy-makers could face a tough choice. Would even a $1 trillion additional stimulus package be enough to impress consumers who have lost 14 times as much? Moreover, would a serious negative wealth effect result among high-income earners if the national debt rises to even higher levels?

Policy-makers need to ask themselves which development over the past few months enjoys the greater potential to revive the economy: (a) the $800 billion stimulus package that produced millions of rebate checks worth several hundred dollars; or (b) the $3 trillion stock market jump (since the March 9 low), which has relatively cash-rich, traditionally big-spending Americans looking at their 401(k) retirement accounts with some relief for the first time in a while.

Ultimately, the factor determining the success of the Obama economy will be the level of private demand for durable goods by the end of 2010. Success will require a lot of spending by a lot of high-income earners the president probably doesn't like and who probably don't like him.

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Capped, gowned and speechified

By MEGHAN DAUM
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Daum is an essayist and novelist in Los Angeles. E-mail Daum at mdaum@latimescolumnists.com.

Commencement addresses are a bit like wedding toasts. A handful are memorable; the rest tend to trigger such musings as, "Why did I wear such uncomfortable shoes?" "Will anyone notice if I send a text?" and "How drunk am I likely to be by the end of the evening?"

But unlike nuptial tributes, which (unless you're in Japan, where they often hire pros) are delivered by unpaid amateurs, graduation speeches are less about the message than the messenger. Every year, a few colleges and universities attract attention because they've managed to book high-profile speakers, and, every year, the media dole out snippets of these speakers' sage remarks.

In the last week, the following nuggets of wisdom have been dispensed:

"You really haven't completed the circle of success unless you can help somebody else move forward." (Oprah Winfrey, Duke University).

"There is no way to stop change; change will come. Go out and give us a future worthy of the world we all wish to create together." (Hillary Clinton, New York University).

"This really is your moment. History is yours to bend." (Joe Biden, Wake Forest University).

I saw you dozing off just now. I saw that!

Not all of last week's speeches trafficked so heavily in motivational sanctimony. President Barack Obama's Notre Dame address on Sunday doubled as a diplomacy effort in the fomenting battles over abortion rights. The president also spoke at Arizona State University on May 12, though his comments there—"I know starting your careers in troubled times is a challenge. But it is also a privilege"—were more pep talk than polemic.

Of course, the real "get" of the graduation season was first lady Michelle Obama's appearance at the University of California, Merced, a new campus in an economically challenged region of Northern California where many students are the first in their families to attend college. "Remember that you are blessed," she told the class of 2009, the first at Merced to enter as freshmen. "Remember that in exchange for those blessings, you must give something back. ... As advocate and activist Marian Wright Edelman says, 'Service is the rent we pay for living ... it is the true measure, the only measure of success.' "

Calls to service have a long, rich tradition in these speeches. I couldn't help noticing that Laura Bush, at Southern Methodist University, hit many of the same notes as the current first lady's speech. "You won't waste your talent and education if you use them in service to others," she told the graduates. (She also delivered a rather hilarious aside about not remembering that her own father-in-law was the speaker when she received her graduate degree from the University of Texas.)

It's hard to argue with exhortations to serve, especially in an economy in which a diploma isn't necessarily a passport to gainful employment. And let's keep in mind that these speeches are in many ways less for grads than for their parents, some of whom (you know who you are) perhaps want a little oratorical gravitas to offset the knowledge that they mortgaged their house so their kid could take classes like "Star Trek: A Semiotic Inquiry."

Of course, it's possible for a commencement address to transcend conventions and cliche and say something truly compelling. The late writer David Foster Wallace's 2005 commencement speech at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, which talked about, among other things, how to authentically care about other people, gained something of a cult following after it was widely circulated on the Internet (it's now available as a book). Steve Jobs' address at Stanford University that year, in which he talked about death, is also considered one of the best in recent memory.

But when you're sitting in the hot sun in your gown and mortarboard, fidgety and freaked out, do you really want to be lectured about the big stuff? Isn't that like trying to maintain a beatific smile at your wedding reception while some wearying relative gives a toast that amounts to "marriage is hard work"? You know he's right; you just don't want to think about it at that particular moment. In fact, as is the case in many major life moments, you can't really manage to think beyond the blisters your shoes are causing.

That may seem crushingly anticlimactic, but it also gets to the heart of one of life's greatest, saddest truths: that our most "memorable" occasions may elicit the fewest memories. It's probably not something most commencement speakers would say, but it's one of the first lessons of growing up. Another word for that is "graduating."

Obama's balance on national security and civil liberties

Special to The Washington Post

The Post asked lawmakers, activists and others whether the president is striking the right balance between national security, civil liberties and government transparency.

CARL LEVIN, D-Mich.

Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee

President Obama is right that the best way to keep America safe is to embrace our fundamental values rather than skirt them.

The Bush administration abandoned some fundamental tenets of our Constitution and of international law to fight terrorism. It used excessive secrecy to shield ill-advised policies — such as the authorization of abusive interrogation techniques — that would not survive in the light of day. Abusive interrogations handed al-Qaida a powerful recruiting tool. That administration also instituted flawed legal processes for detainees, which were reversed three times by the Supreme Court.

Obama's order to end abusive interrogations and close Guantanamo Bay struck a blow against terrorist propaganda. His proposal to bring the rules for military commissions in line with the standards established by the Supreme Court continues the process of bringing our fight back to the moral high ground.

We need allies to combat terrorism, and we have a better chance of enlisting their support if we recognize the impact of abuses at Guantanamo and Abu Ghraib and make a clean break with those abuses.

KENNETH ROTH

Executive director, Human Rights Watch

President Obama has reaffirmed that violating human rights undermines national security. He observed that Guantanamo has become "a symbol that helped al-Qaida recruit terrorists to its cause." Its closure, as the president has ordered, should enhance America's safety.

Yet the essence of Guantanamo is not a particular detention facility but, rather, its abusive methods. The president contradicted himself by endorsing a new system for prolonged detention without charge or trial. Allowing detention without trial enables the executive branch to avoid demonstrating guilt in a criminal trial by simply classifying a suspect as part of an enemy force.

That compromise of our basic rights is unnecessary because federal courts have a long history of successfully prosecuting terrorist crimes. If the government cannot convict someone of conspiracy to commit terrorism — which requires proof only of a criminal agreement between two or more people and a single step to advance that plan — it should release the suspect, not lock him up anyway under a new and dangerous detention regime.

VICTORIA TOENSING

Deputy assistant attorney general, 1984-88; established the Justice Department's terrorism unit

To much applause, Obama announces that he has "banned the use of so-called enhanced interrogation techniques"; silently, he reserves the right to use them. Sounds like the Bush-Cheney position, except they did not release classified documents to inform terrorists what would or would not be done to them during interrogations. The maligned military commissions are back, characterized now as having increased evidentiary protections but in reality not creating any more than were already available.

George W. Bush wanted to close Guantanamo, too, but he did not know what to do with dangerous detainees who could not be put on trial. For example, a federal court will suppress a confession made without Miranda rights, a nicety not usually practiced on the battlefield. Obama announces the closing of Guantanamo (again, applause) but concedes there may be "people who cannot be prosecuted ... because evidence may be tainted." Without telling how, Obama promises not to "release individuals" who want to kill Americans. Changing Zip codes from Cuba to a U.S. prison does not resolve the issue: unending detention for detainees who cannot be tried in a U.S. court or by military commission. The Bush-Cheney dilemma remains.

What's new? Unlike Bush-Cheney, Obama knows how to put lipstick on a pig.

Letter to the Editor

Make Saipan a healthcare hub

I am currently in Honolulu, Hawaii with my wife and our youngest daughter on medical referral. I was reading the online editions of Saipan newspapers and KSPN News and came across the article on shortage of doctors at our local hospital.

It seems to me that things are turning for the worst at our only island hospital, with doctors resigning and relocating elsewhere. I believe the quality of healthcare in the CNMI is at its most dismal stage ever. I highly respect the management at CHC as they are doing the best they can with the limited resources at their disposal. I have been here in Honolulu since April and during time I spent here escorting my wife for her treatments, tests, and lab works, I must say that there is a long way to go for our CHC to be able to catch up to the quality medical care that private hospitals and clinics are providing here in Honolulu and across the state. Yes, you can say that there are charitable contributors to these private clinics and hospitals on an annual basis and also the federal funds that do come to these facilities.

My concern is and always will be is the fact that there have always been talks of creating a regional medical care facility for our area. Time and time again, there are always talks being conducted at different levels of government but until now, there is no definitive plan in coming up with a real regional health care facility so that our CNMI community or even folks from Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Belau, and the Marshall Islands can avail of such a regional facility comprising good physicians and other related jobs to make the facility competitive with the ones in Honolulu, Los Angeles, and Seattle.

Just from my observation and information from the medical referral staff here in Honolulu, during the month of April 2009, there were about 25-30 CNMI patients referred here. You can imagine what impact that will have on the cost of medical referral. Yes, we do acknowledge that there is and will always be a running deficit in the budget of the medical referral but the bottom line is that we lack the facilities and specialists at CHC. Our CHC is not up to the standards of health care as those here in Honolulu, Los Angeles, and Seattle.

Given our limited resources, the salary for doctors with different specialties is low compared to the nationwide average and that is one factor why we cannot entice professionals to come to the CNMI. The salary and fringe benefits are not there and that is one of the reasons why they are unable to come even though we offer them the adventure of a lifetime. In most of the states in the mainland, one has to drive far distances just to experience beach life, let alone lie down in white sandy beaches. Here, all that one needs to do is to either drive or even ride a bike or hike down to the closest beach from where he or she lives.

But the bottom line is we really need to re-evaluate the entire health care system and see which areas need overhauling. If it means directing more federal stimulus funds to be able to improve health care, then so be it but it does not mean that the transformation will occur overnight. It will take some time but if everyone put their minds together, nothing is impossible and who knows, our CHC can be known later as the central hub for the best health care regional facility and that will save our community a lot of money and not be medically referred off-island. We will possibly see folks from our neighboring islands and across Micronesia. I know that it can be done but it has to be a total team effort. One has to visit the medical facilities here in Oahu such as the Straub Clinic and Hospital and the Queens Medical Center just to name a few. You will be amazed at how well the medical facilities here are managed and maintained to the highest standards.

Lastly, my wife Rosita and I would like to send our kudos to the CNMI/Honolulu Medical Referral Office for a job well done. To Angel Demapan, Tonie Villagomez, Nadine Hamilton Sablan, Tanya Benavente, Margaret Sablan McQuay, Fuji Suel, and Manny Salas, you guys are wonderful and make a patient's outlook in life very positive and optimistic. We are forever grateful for all the efforts you guys are exerting. Thanks also goes to Ron Sablan and the Medical Referral Staff at CHC Saipan. Thank you and *mahalo nui loa!*

Mark S. Pangelinan
Pagoda Hotel, Honolulu, Hawaii

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°

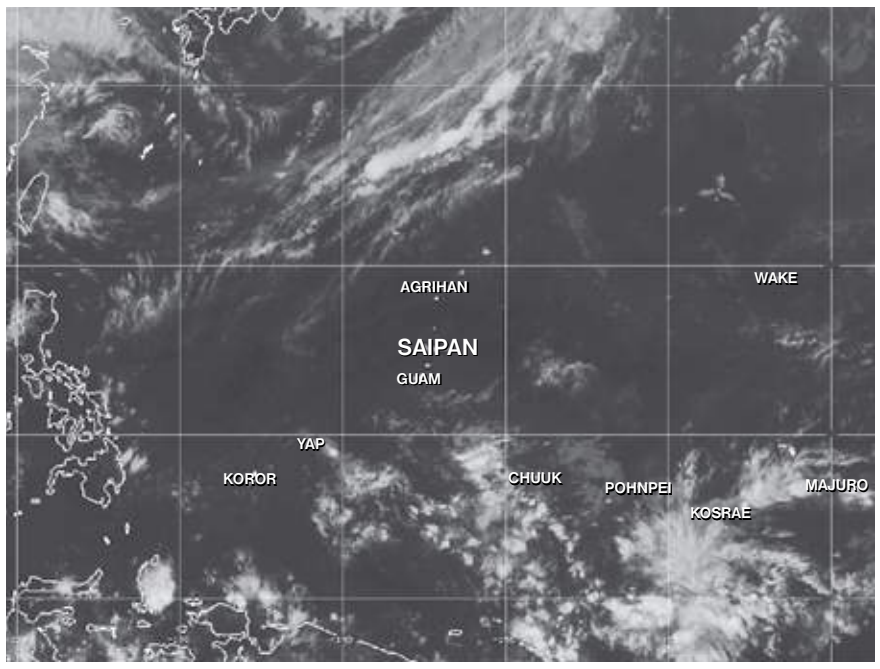
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲88	▼77
Palau	Sunny	▲86	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼76
Pohnpei	Thundershowers	▲86	▼79
Kosrae	Showers	▲89	▼f78
Majuro	Thundershowers	▲86	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲57	▼48
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼61
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲84	▼77
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	▲82	▼71
London	Showers	▲66	▼48
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲74	▼60
Manila	Partly Sunny	▲93	▼81
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲64	▼48
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87	▼75
New York	Showers	▲62	▼54
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲78	▼59
Paris	Showers	▲60	▼48
Pusan	Cloudy	▲75	▼62
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲83	▼58
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲74	▼47
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲69	▼53
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲77	▼57
Tokyo	Sunny	▲76	▼60
Washington, DC	Rain	▲67	▼62

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, MAY 25, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Convergence associated with a weak trade wind disturbance is producing scattered showers southwest of Chuuk within 80 miles of a line from 9N147E to 6N149E to 2N151E. A weak trade wind disturbance is generating scattered showers south of Kosrae from the equator to 5N between 158E and 163E. Trade wind convergence and broad upper level diffluence is generating scattered showers south of Kwajalein and Majuro within 60 miles of a line from 6N164E to 7N169E to 5N173E. Low-level convergence ahead of a deepening low pressure trough southeast of Japan is producing a line of scattered showers from 24N140E to 25N143E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
2:53 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
7:36 AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
3:11 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
10:28 PM Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Wednesday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:43 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:43 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:43 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:05 AM	8:40 PM
Wednesday	8:12 AM	9:40 PM
Thursday	9:18 AM	10:34 PM
Friday	10:21 AM	11:22 PM
Saturday	11:20 AM	

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  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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NMI CRIME STOPPERS

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 9, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317	4:30am	5:20am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

CO9598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
CO9312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-PALAU (ROR)

CO893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3, 5
CO953	6:50pm	7:50pm	1, 7
CO953	7:35pm	10:05pm	2, 4, 6

PALAU (ROR)-MANILA

CO893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3, 5

GUAM-MANILA

CO893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via ROR
CO933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR111	6:00am	7:45am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25am	Daily

GUAM-NARITA (NRT)

CO961	6:35am	9:10am	Daily
NW83	8:00am	1:55pm	Daily via KIX
CO6	12:00pm	2:45pm	Daily
NW73	4:05pm	7:00pm	Daily
CO963	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1
OZ119	4:20am	7:00am	4,6

GUAM-OSAKA (KIX)

NW83	8:00am	10:45am	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

GUAM-NAGOYA (NGO)

CO971	7:45am	10:30am	Daily
NW23	4:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
CO975	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	excl 1
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1 via KIX
OZ119	4:20am	11:20am	4, 6 via KIX

SEOUL (ICN)-HONG KONG

OZ721	9:05am	11:45am	Daily
OZ723	7:45pm	10:30pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-MANILA

OZ701	8:35am	11:25am	Daily
OZ703	7:50pm	10:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

CO9598	3:25am	4:00am	5, 6
CO9312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

CO9316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
CO9598	2:20am	4:00am	5, 6 via ROP
CO9596	7:00am	5:00am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily x6
CO9312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

CO9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

PALAU (ROR)-GUAM

CO954	1:10am	5:30am	3, 5, 7
CO954	1:45am	4:40am	1, 2
CO892	2:35am	5:30am	4, 6

MANILA-PALAU (ROR)

CO892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3, 5

MANILA-GUAM

CO892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3, 5 via ROR
CO934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR110	10:00pm	4:00am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:30pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	7:50pm	12:30am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-GUAM

NW74	10:00am	2:50pm	Daily
CO962	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
CO7	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
NW84	6:20pm	1:40am+1	Daily
CO964	8:25pm	1:00am+1	Daily
NW82	8:30pm	1:05am+1	4
NW82	8:30pm	1:20am+1	X 4

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6

OSAKA (KIX)-GUAM

NW84	9:05pm	1:40am+1	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-GUAM

NW24	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
CO970	11:30am	4:30pm	Daily
CO972	8:25pm	12:55am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	excl 7

HONG KONG-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ724	12:30am	5:05am	Daily
OZ722	1:15pm	5:45pm	Daily

MANILA-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ702	12:45pm	5:45pm	Daily
OZ704	11:50pm	4:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

Recession suddenly humbles high-tech sector

LOS GATOS, Calif. (AP)—The $1.6 million red Bugatti crouches in the showroom, flanked by Lamborghinis, Bentleys and a Rolls-Royce all polished to a shimmer. The nearby potted plants, however, are dusty and wilting. With super-luxury car sales here just half of what they used to be, they had to cut something.

"We wash our own windows now, take care of the plants ourselves," says Ryan Dohogne, general manager of Silicon Valley Auto Group. Although they haven't laid anyone off, yet, Dohogne said they're saving everywhere they can.

Five miles away, former indoor plant specialist Michael A. Jones is having what he calls "a humbling experience" at a non-profit food pantry, choosing dented cans of corn and tuna, a crunched box of Rice Krispies and some soon-to-expire milk to supplement his food stamps.

Jones used to gross $12,000 a month as an indoor horticulturist for high tech companies, restaurants and car dealerships, although not Silicon Valley Auto Group. Then "everyone cut back all at once and we had to shut down," he said. "It happened fast."

Very fast. In fact, nowhere in the country has the bust arrived more abruptly.

The Associated Press Economic Stress Index, a month-by-month analysis of foreclosure, bankruptcy and unemployment rates in more than 3,000 U.S. counties, shows that last year, as the national economy tanked, high tech economic centers from California's Silicon Valley to North Carolina's Research Triangle were apparently "recession-proof" with increasing jobs and stable housing prices.

Last fall, everything changed. When previously invested funds petered out, there was no new capital. Bankruptcies, foreclosures and unemployment in high tech regions spiked, and are now at some of the highest levels in the country.

For example:

■ Santa Clara County, home to Silicon Valley, saw bankruptcies soar 59 percent in the past 12 months, and projections are that they're still climbing;

■ North Carolina's unemployment has doubled since early 2008 to a record 10.7 percent, with close to 200,000 jobs lost in the state, 20 percent of those in Research Triangle, a high tech hot spot near Durham, Raleigh, and Chapel Hill.

■ Foreclosures in once-booming tech neighborhoods around Boston are on track to reach a record high this year after tripling since last summer.

Simply put, these regions "are seeing their strength strangled as investors hold on to whatever funds they have left," said digital economy expert Ed Malecki, an Ohio State University professor. "Everyone's portfolio is smaller than a year or two ago, and venture capital—and even more, pre-venture angel financing—lives off of private wealth," said Malecki. "There is simply less private wealth around right now."

High tech regions, which throughout most of 2008 were far more economically secure than the rest of the country, are now seeing unemployment, foreclosure and bankruptcy rates on par with national averages, and in some cases even higher.

Even the most optimistic high tech community leaders have had to face facts.

Gore, others urge CEOs to back climate change agreement

COPENHAGEN (AP)—Climate-change heavyweights U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon and Nobel prize winner Al Gore urged more than 500 business leaders on Sunday to lend their corporate muscle to reaching a global deal on reducing greenhouse gases.

The CEOs of PepsiCo, Nestle, BP and other major world businesses began meeting in Copenhagen, where politicians will gather in December to negotiate a new U.N.-brokered climate treaty.

Despite the global financial crisis, both Ban and Gore said there was no time for delay in hashing out the specifics of how to cut greenhouse gases that contribute to warming the planet.

"We have to do it this year. Not next year. This year," Gore said. "The clock is ticking, because Mother Nature does not do bailouts."

The three-day World Business Summit on Climate Change is a precursor to the negotiations to determine what will succeed the Kyoto climate treaty that expires in 2012.

"Continuing to pour trillions of dollars into fossil-fuel subsidies is like investing in subprime real estate," Ban said. "Our carbon-based infrastructure is like a toxic asset that threatens the portfolio of global goods, from public health to food security."

A new global warming treaty would build on the Kyoto treaty's mixed success in requiring that 37 industrialized nations reduce greenhouse gas emissions an average of 5 percent below 1990 levels by 2012.

Gore said any of the ambitious treaty goals being discussed will depend on CEOs working out greener ways of doing business and governments reining in unrestricted pollution.

Fix is hard for Medicare, Social Security finances

WASHINGTON (AP)—There is no easy fix.

Medicare and Social Security will go broke sooner rather than later because of the recession. With millions of baby boomers beginning to leave the work force, the cost of these popular benefit programs threatens to swamp the government in debt in the coming years if nothing is done.

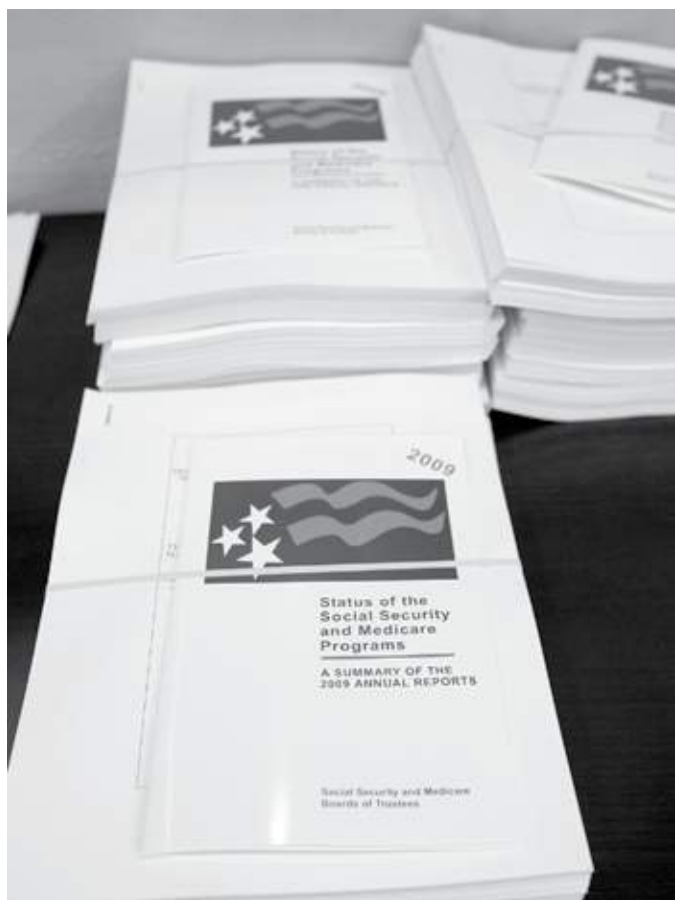
Congress and the White House are under increasing pressure to find a solution.

One proposal gaining steam is a creating bipartisan commission to tackle the approaching insolvency of the government's three big "entitlement" programs: Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

Everything would be on the table, including tax increases and benefit cuts. The commission would produce a "grand bargain" package of recommendations that Congress could accept or reject in total.

It's the same process the country has used since 1988 to handle military base closings, where the single take-it-or-leave-it vote provides a measure of political cover to lawmakers.

President Barack Obama has said that action to overhaul Social Security and other guaranteed-benefit programs is critical. But top aides are cool to the commission idea for now, wanting Congress to deal first with the president's ambitious health care and global warming initiatives.



AP

A summary of the 2009 annual reports sits on a table at the Treasury Department in Washington, Tuesday, May 12, 2009, following a news conference after the annual spring meeting of the Social Security and Medicare Trustees to discuss the financial situation of the Social Security and Medicare trust funds.

The commission idea is being resisted by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and some influential committee leaders who see it as an end run around the normal legislative process.

"The fact that the leadership has been opposed to it has been a problem," said Rep. Frank Wolf, R-Va., one of two original authors of the commission bill in the House. Still, Wolf said in an interview, "There's an economic tsunami off the coast and it's ready to wipe us out."

Wolf also introduced the measure in the last Congress but failed to interest either President George W. Bush or then-Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson.

In a letter Friday to Obama, Wolf raised the prospect that the nation's coveted triple-A bond rating, which it has held since 1917, may be jeopardized if Congress doesn't act soon on shoring up Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

Financial markets were rocked last week when Britain was warned by Standard & Poor's Ratings Service that debts it had incurred in trying to dig out of its economic crisis could result in the loss of its triple-A rating. The threat of a downgrade could signal similar problems for other big economies—particularly the United States, whose finances has been hit just as hard. The White House said it did not expect the U.S. government's credit rating to be cut.

Investors await housing, consumer confidence news

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Investors have lost some of their bravado when facing bad economic news.

Wall Street's mood deteriorated last week as investors began to question whether stocks' spring rally was premature. They were also stung by a Standard & Poor's warning about British government debt that raised concerns about how much money the U.S. government owes.

As stocks barreled higher starting in early March, investors were able to find signs of hope in reports that showed a still struggling economy. But they're uneasy going into this week, which will bring two reports on April home sales and the latest assessment of consumer confidence. They're also nervous about an expected June 1 Chapter 11 bankruptcy reorganization filing for General Motors Corp.

"There are some big, big, big issues going on right now," said Tommy Williams, president of Williams Financial Advisors in Shreveport, La. "I don't think any one of them are going away this summer."

The major indicators just managed to squeeze out gains last week. The Dow Jones industrials rose 0.10 percent, while the Standard & Poor's 500 index ended the week up 0.47 percent.

The first test of the market's ability to build on those numbers comes Tuesday, when the Conference Board releases its May consumer confidence index. The reading should provide some insight into consumers' willingness to spend.

But Ron Weiner, president and chief executive of RDM Financial in Westport, Conn., says that while any positive news about consumers would be welcome, the market is likely to have just a short-term upward blip.

"We want the consumer to be out there, we want them to spend," Weiner said. "For the most part, however, we don't see consumers going to pull us out of this economy because they are also paying down debt a the same time."

Investors are also mindful of the Commerce Department's disappointing retail sales report for April, which took the market by surprise May 13 and sent stocks plunging.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Final exec faces sentence in SC firm's $275M bust

GREENVILLE, S.C. (AP)—Donald McQuade skipped lobster dinners and long vacations for decades, pouring every dollar he saved into a little South Carolina company that made returns close to 10 percent by loaning to people who couldn't borrow anywhere else. By the time he turned 75, McQuade was a millionaire. Then, on one horrible day back in the spring of 2003, he realized it was all gone. On Tuesday, a judge will sentence the final executive convicted in the scheme—the $275 million collapse of Carolina Investors and parent company HomeGold Financial Inc. Former HomeGold Chief Financial Officer Karen Miller faces up to five years in prison. She cooperated with authorities and pleaded guilty to conspiracy nearly four years ago. The other five executives have been sent to prison.

Online magazine tries to be a lab for media future

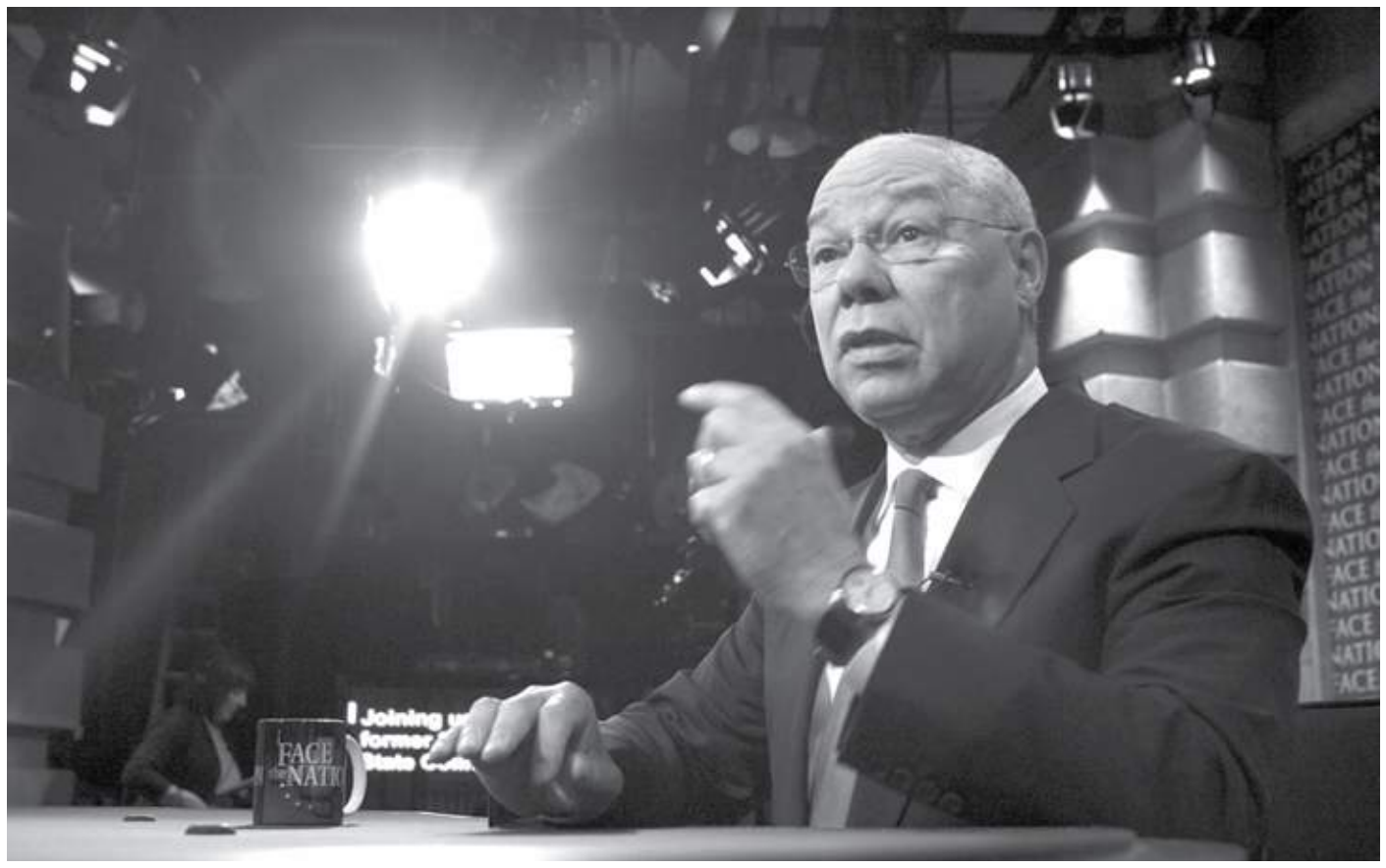
NEW YORK (AP)—The Web edition of a cover story from Fortune this spring took a sharp turn from what you might expect at a 79-year-old magazine. Dispensing advice on finding a job during a recession, the piece had a soundtrack, a troupe of improv actors from Chicago and about 4,000 fewer words than your average magazine feature. Instead of scrolling through a column of text, readers (if the term can be applied) flipped through nine pages that told the story with a mix of text, photo-illustrations, interactive graphics and video clips. No one is quite sure what journalism will look like when the Internet is done with it, but as Fortune executive editor Steve Koepp put it, "If you're wondering what does the future of Fortune.com look like, it may be something like this."

Vegas casinos try bargains to lure back visitors

LAS VEGAS (AP)—It's back to the buffet, bargains and customer bonuses for Las Vegas casinos. Fast food is up, fine dining tabs are down and hotel rooms are available for under $50 in a city that has been calling on recession-weary tourists to come back and play the quarter slot machines. Value is the hippest thing on Las Vegas Boulevard this year. At O'Sheas Casino, the president of five Harrah's Entertainment Inc. hotel-casinos on the Las Vegas Strip is poking fun at the economic downturn and the excesses that built Sin City's anything-goes reputation. Don Marrandino points at a sign pushing $45 bottles of Jack Daniels whiskey or Smirnoff vodka, and says the promotion parodies the not-too-distant past when the gambling resorts marked up liquor by hundreds of dollars a bottle and patrons couldn't empty them fast enough.

Nation

Powell to GOP: Listen to moderates, too



AP

In this photo provided by CBS News, former Secretary of State General Colin Powell appears on the CBS talk show "Face the Nation," Sunday, May 24, 2009, in Washington.

WASHINGTON (AP)—The conservative vs. moderate split threatening to rupture the Republican Party played out across the airwaves Sunday, with Colin Powell and Tom Ridge denouncing shrill and judgmental voices they say are steering the GOP too far right. Karl Rove challenged Powell to lay out his vision and "back it up" by helping elect Republicans.

At stake is the GOP's status as a major party, Powell and Ridge suggested.

"I believe we should build on the base because the nation needs two parties, two parties debating each other. But what we have to do is debate and define who we are and what we are and not just listen to dictates that come down from the right wing of the party," said Powell, the nation's top military officer under President George H.W. Bush and later secretary of state for President George W. Bush.

Dick Cheney and Rush Limbaugh have openly mocked Powell as a Republican in name only, citing his endorsement of Democrat Barack Obama over Republican John McCain in last year's presidential race.

Powell reaffirmed that he is a solid Republican and said the GOP must be more inclusive or risk giving Democrats and independents the chance to scoop up disaffected moderate Republicans. He detailed his presidential voting history—yes to GOP nominees Ronald Reagan through the younger Bush, but yes also to Democrats John F. Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson and Jimmy Carter.

"If we don't reach out more, the party is going to be sitting on a very, very narrow base. You can only do two things with a base. You can sit on it and watch the world go by, or you can build on the base," Powell said.

Fellow GOP moderate Ridge, the former Pennsylvania governor and homeland security secretary under George W. Bush, said if the GOP wants "to restore itself, not as a regional party, but as a national party, we have to be far less judgmental about disagreements within the party and far more judgmental about our disagreement with our friends on the other side of the aisle."

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, a potential presidential candidate in 2012, insisted he didn't want to pick a fight with Cheney. But Gingrich offered this advice: "I think Republicans are going to be very foolish if they run around deciding they're going to see how much they can purge us down to the smallest possible base."

Cheney, defense secretary when Army Gen. Powell was Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman during the Gulf War in 1991, has made clear that he would rather follow broadcaster Limbaugh than Powell into political battle over the GOP's future. "I didn't know he was still a Republican," Cheney said in a television interview two weeks ago.

NY woman in 50s is US' 11th swine flu death

NEW YORK (AP)—A woman died over the weekend of swine flu, becoming the city's second victim and the nation's 11th.

The woman, who was in her 50s, had other health conditions, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene spokeswoman Jessica Scaperotti said. No other information on her case was disclosed Sunday.

Assistant public school principal Mitchell Wiener, who died May 17, was the city's first death from the virus. The 55-year-old had been sick for several days.

There were 280 confirmed cases of swine flu in the city and 94 hospitalizations as of Sunday, Scaperotti said. The number of confirmed cases probably doesn't fully reflect the spread of the virus, given that health officials aren't testing everyone for the H1N1 strain.

"It's most likely that if you're sick with the flu, that you have the H1N1 virus," Scaperotti said.

Those people with chronic health conditions such as diabetes and compromised immune systems who are suffering from flu-like symptoms should seek medical advice, Scaperotti said. Only those with more serious symptoms, such as shortness of breath, should go to emergency rooms, she said.

The health department recommended that physicians prescribe anti-flu drugs such as Tamiflu over the phone to patients with mild flu symptoms who have other health conditions.

Scaperotti said that as the virus spreads "we are going to see more increases of severe illness." She said that each year more than 1,000 people die of seasonal flu in the city.

The city's first outbreak of swine flu occurred about a month ago, when more than 1,000 teenagers at a Catholic high school in Queens began falling ill following the return of several students from vacations in Mexico, where the virus was first detected.

The virus has coursed through the city's schools and even reached its jail system, where inmates' visiting hours have been limited and hand sanitizer passed around. On Thursday, correction officials said they would sanitize a 2,600-inmate jail on Rikers Island.

Atlantis, crew land in Calif. after Hubble mission

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AP)—Space shuttle Atlantis and its seven astronauts returned safely to Earth on Sunday, detouring from stormy Florida to sunsplashed California to end a 13-day mission that repaired and enhanced the Hubble Space Telescope.

"Now and only now can we declare this mission a total success—the astronauts are safely on the ground," NASA sciences chief Ed Weiler told a Florida press conference.

Atlantis' crew had waited since Friday for the go-ahead to land as Mission Control hoped to avoid the time and expense—about $1.8 million—of diverting to California's Edwards Air Force Base.

The Florida weather refused to yield and Mission Control finally directed shuttle commander Scott Altman to head to California. The shuttle's twin sonic booms rocked the Mojave Desert as it swooped out of a dazzling morning sky.

Out on the runway after landing, Altman reflected on how long it had taken to get their mission under way—and then to end it.

"When we got down to Florida I looked at everybody and said, 'At last,'" Altman said. "I didn't realize it was going to be so hard to get back to the Earth in the end. So again I guess I say the same thing, at last we're back on the ground."

It was the 53rd shuttle land-

Liberals frustrated on gun, Guantanamo issues

WASHINGTON (AP)—Frustrated liberals are asking why a Democratic-controlled Congress and White House can't manage to close the Guantanamo prison or keep new gun-rights laws from passing.

After all, President Barack Obama pledged to shut down the military detention center on Cuba for suspected terrorists. And Democratic control of the government would suggest that any gun legislation leads to tighter controls on weapons, not expanded use.

Even as they grouse, however, liberal lawmakers acknowledge that no one factor explains last week's disappointing back-to-back votes in Congress.

The Obama administration is focused on other priorities, they say. Party leaders don't want to endanger Democratic lawmakers from conservative districts by stressing divisive issues such as gun control.

On Guantanamo, many say, Obama and his allies were caught napping as Republicans stirred public fears about relocating suspected terrorists. "I think it's one of the few times that he didn't think it all the way out," said Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Md., an unabashed admirer of the president.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: Ohio man attacks neighbors, is shot dead

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP)—A man who didn't get his nightly telephone call from his mother while she was traveling mistakenly claimed his neighbors had kidnapped her and stormed into their house to kill them before police officers shot him dead in a bloody standoff, authorities said. Richard D. Carr, who apparently believed his mother had been killed or kidnapped, was armed with two handguns when he pounded on next-door neighbor John Murphy's front door Sunday morning and announced he was going to kill Murphy and his family, police said. "You killed my family. Now I'm going to kill yours," Carr said before he began shooting, according to police.

Search focuses on Calif., Mexico for mom, sick son

NEW ULM, Minn. (AP)—Authorities in Minnesota say the search for a woman and her sick 13-year-old son remains focused in southern California and Mexico. The Brown County sheriff's department said Sunday it is continuing to look for Daniel Hauser, who has Hodgkin's lymphoma, and his mother Colleen, who is refusing to allow chemotherapy treatment for her son. They were expected in court Tuesday. But The FBI says they left their home in Sleepy Eye, Minn., that day for Los Angeles. Doctors say Daniel has a cancerous tumor growing in his chest that's likely to kill him without chemotherapy, but his family prefers natural healing methods. The American Cancer Society estimates there are 35 to 50 clinics in Mexican border towns that attract cancer patients looking for alternative remedies.

2 killed, 6 hurt in Ariz. graduation party shooting

MESA, Ariz. (AP)—Two people were killed and six others—two of them children—were wounded in a shooting at a high school graduation party, police said Sunday. Brent Matthew Banks, 37, was arrested after a four-hour standoff with police at a house in Mesa, east of Phoenix, Mesa Police Sgt. Ed Wessing said. Preliminary information indicated that Banks was an invited guest at the party who got into a physical fight with his ex-wife late Saturday, Wessing said. He allegedly went to his vehicle, got a gun, returned to the party and opened fire, killing his 38-year-old ex-wife and a 32-year-old man, Wessing said.

Asia

Democracy icon's trial deepens Myanmar's isolation

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—The trial of democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi resumed Monday as Myanmar lashed out against Thailand—one of its few supporters in an international community likely to halt recent moves to improve relations with the country's military rulers.

Suu Kyi, due to testify this week, is widely expected to be found guilty for allegedly harboring an American who swam across a lake to her residence. She faces up to five years in prison.

A list of four or five defense witnesses will be submitted to the court and statements from remaining prosecution witnesses are to be heard at Monday's session inside Yangon's security-ringed Insein prison, said Nyan Win, a spokesman for Suu Kyi's political party.

Already bombarded by criticism from Western nations, the junta turned on neighboring Thailand, a partner in the 10-nation Association of Southeast Nation, or ASEAN, accusing its neighbor of violating the bloc's principle by interfering in Myanmar's internal affairs.

Thailand, the grouping's current chairman, last week expressed "grave concern" over the trial, saying "the honor and the credibility of the (Myanmar government) are at stake."

A statement from Myanmar issued Monday responded: "It is sadly noted that (Thailand) failed to preserve the dignity of ASEAN, the dignity of Myanmar and the dignity of Thailand."

Suu Kyi, who has been in detention without trial for more than 13 of the past 19 years, is being tried on charges of violating the terms of her house arrest after the uninvited American, John W. Yettaw, swam to her home earlier this month and stayed for two days. Suu Kyi pleaded not guilty Friday.

Suu Kyi

But Myanmar's courts operate under the influence of the ruling military, and almost always deal harshly with political dissidents.

The charges against her are widely seen as a pretext for the government to keep her detained during polls it has scheduled for next year as the culmination of its "roadmap to democracy," which has been criticized as a fig leaf for continued military rule. She was due to have been released from her latest term of house arrest this Wednesday.

NKorea says it conducted 2nd nuclear test

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea defiantly declared Monday that it carried out a powerful underground nuclear test—reportedly many times larger than a 2006 test—in a major provocation in the escalating international standoff over its rogue nuclear and missile programs.

The regime also test-fired a short-range, ground-to-air missile Monday from the same northeastern site where it controversially launched a rocket last month, the Yonhap news agency reported, citing unnamed sources. That liftoff, widely believed to be a cover for a test of its long-range missile technology, drew censure from the U.N. Security Council.

North Korea, incensed by the condemnation of the April 5 rocket launch, had warned last month that it would restart it rogue nuclear program, conduct an atomic test and carry out long-range missile tests.

On Monday, the country's official Korean Central News Agency said the regime "successfully conducted one more underground nuclear test on May 25 as part of measures to bolster its nuclear deterrent for self-defense."

Defense officials in Russia, which shares a short border with North Korea, confirmed a nuclear test in northeastern North Korea, the ITAR-Tass news agency said.

President Barack Obama said a nuclear test would constitute an act of "blatant defiance" of the U.N. Security Council and a violation of international law.

"These actions, while not a surprise given its statements and actions to date, are a matter of grave concern to all nations," he said, calling for international action in a statement from Washington. "North Korea's attempts to develop nuclear weapons, as well as its ballistic missile program, constitute a threat to international peace and security."

"If North Korea carried out a nuclear test, it would clearly violate U.N. Security Council resolutions," chief government spokesman Takeo Kawamura told reporters in Tokyo. "We will definitely not tolerate it."

Japan will request an emergency U.N. Security Council meeting to discuss North Korea, Vice Foreign Minister Mitoji Yabunaka said, according to the Kyodo news agency.

Visitors stand near the mock North Korean Scud-B missile, standing at center in background, and other South Korean missiles on display at Korea War Memorial Museum in Seoul, South Korea, Monday, May 25, 2009. AP

North Korea did not say where or when the test took place. But seismologists from the U.S., South Korea and Japan reported activity shortly after 9:50 a.m. in a northeastern area where North Korea conducted its first nuclear test in 2006.

An emergency siren sounded in the Chinese border city of Yanji, 130 miles (200 kilometers) northwest from the test site. A receptionist at Yanji's International Hotel said she and several hotel guests felt the ground tremble.

The Japan Meteorological Agency measured the seismic activity at magnitude-5.3, quake expert Gen Aoki said. The Korea Institute of Geoscience and Mineral Resources in Seoul reported seismic activity in Kilju in North Hamgyong Province—the same area where North Korea carried out a nuclear test in October 2006.

North Korea boasted that Monday's test was conducted "on a new higher level in terms of its explosive power and technology of its control" than one carried out in 2006.

The force of the nuclear blast was 10 to 20 kilotons, Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Alexander Drobyshevsky told the state-run RIA-Novosti news agency.

An explosion of that size would be many times more than North Korea managed in 2006. U.S. intelligence officials said the 2006 test measured less than a kiloton; one kiloton is equal to the force produced by 1,000 tons of TNT.

Radiation levels, tested after the blast, were normal, RIA-Novosti cited a spokeswoman for the meteorological official in the Primorye region as saying.

The reported test-fire of the short-range missile took place at the Musudan-ri launchpad on North Korea's northeast coast, Yonhap said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

98 skulls found in dry pond in northern India

LUCKNOW, India (AP)—Nearly 100 human skulls and other skeletal remains were discovered in a dried-up pond in northern India, officials said Monday. The remains likely belonged to people whom police could not identify and were dumped there to avoid having to organize cremations. The grisly discovery was made by children playing in a pond that had dried up over the summer in Aligarh, a city 75 miles (120 kilometers) southeast of New Delhi. After the children found several skulls, police were called in and subsequently dug up 98 skulls and other bones, said Aligarh police chief Aseem Arun. Local government official Shailendra Singh said the remains were most likely those of unidentified people killed in road accidents and other mishaps. He conceded that police occasionally fail to properly dispose of bodies.

Renown climber warns Everest facing climate damage

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—A Sherpa from Nepal who holds the world's record for scaling Mount Everest said Monday the planet's highest peak was littered with trash and warned that its glaciers were melting because of global warming. Appa, who like most Sherpas goes by only one name, scaled the peak last week not to draw attention to his own amazing feat—he has now climbed Everest a record 19 times—but to the impact that global warming is having on the majestic site. Glaciers are melting at an alarming rate, creating lakes whose walls could burst and flood villages below. Melting ice and snow also make the routes for mountaineers less stable and more difficult to follow.

Mongolian opposition candidate claims presidency

ULAN BATOR, Mongolia (AP)—The opposition claimed victory Monday in Mongolia's presidential election and the incumbent's party conceded defeat, signaling a cordial end to a tight race that some feared could spark riots if it was too close to call. Official results were expected later Monday but the ruling People's Revolutionary party announced already that its candidate had lost Sunday's election and that it considered the balloting fair. Elbegdorj Tsahia, the winner according to both leading parties, is a two-time former prime minister. He campaigned for the largely ceremonial post on a theme of change and anti-corruption pleasing to urban voters, especially in the capital of Ulan Bator, where more than half the electorate live.

Defeated Tamil Tiger rebels confirm leader's death

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—The defeated Tamil Tiger rebels confirmed Sunday that their supreme leader was killed in the group's final battle against Sri Lankan troops.

The almost mythic commander, Velupillai Prabhakaran, led a terror-driven Tamil insurrection in Sri Lanka for more than a quarter century. Last week the government declared it finally killed Prabhakaran and proclaimed victory against his Tamil Tigers, crushing the rebellion that the U.N. estimates cost between 80,000 to 100,000 lives.

But many Tamils didn't believe it.

For some die-hard followers, especially those living abroad, it hardly matters whether the legendary guerrilla is alive or dead, as long as there is a continuing story line of an independent Tamil state in part of this Sinhalese-dominated island.

Meanwhile, the government said it believes Prabhakaran's deputy and feared intelligence chief was also among the dead but his body has not been identified.

Sri Lanka's Defense Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa said in an interview with privately owned Derana TV on Sunday that soldiers have still not been able to identify the body of Pottu Amman, who along with Prabhakaran were wanted by India for the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

"There is no doubt that he's been killed," he said

The military earlier claimed to have identified the body of the spy chief. Rajapaksa did not explain the contradiction.

'Bloody intersection' secured by Pakistani troops

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The Taliban left so many mutilated bodies at the crossing—some hanging from trees with threatening notes—that Pakistanis in the Swat Valley's main town took to calling it "bloody intersection."

On Sunday, the army said that spot and seven other major crossings in Mingora were secured, part of street-by-street urban fighting whose success is considered critical to flushing out the militants from the valley as a whole.

The advances in Swat came as helicopter gunships pounded alleged militant hide-outs in a nearby tribal region, killing at least 18 people, while police announced the arrest of a militant commander and six other Taliban fighters elsewhere in the northwest.

The events underscored how widespread and entrenched militant activity is along Pakistan's rugged region bordering Afghanistan, and how pushing the Taliban out of Swat is unlikely to defuse the overall insurgency beleaguering the nuclear-armed Muslim nation.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Suicide bomber kills 7 at Somali government base

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—A foreign suicide bomber killed six guards and a civilian Sunday at a military base in the Somali capital, officials said, an attack that came after two weeks of intense fighting in war-torn Mogadishu. Two Islamic insurgent forces have formed an alliance and are trying to push the U.N.-backed government from the capital, which has been heavily shelled in the last two days. Over 150 people have been killed and hundreds injured in the past two weeks, and the U.N. said the violence has prompted 57,000 Somalis to flee the city. Abdifitah Ibrahim Shawey, the region's deputy governor and the deputy mayor of Mogadishu, said Sunday's bomber had pale skin, leading authorities to suspect he was one of some three hundred foreigners fighting alongside Islamist insurgents.

Paraguay bishop-turned-president: Celibacy flawed

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Paraguayan President Fernando Lugo, who last month admitted fathering a son conceived while he was still a bishop, says celibacy vows taken by Roman Catholic clerics are "imperfect." Lugo stunned Paraguay in April when he recognized as his son a 2-year-old boy born to a former parishioner. Two other woman have claimed he is the father of their sons, and Lugo has agreed to take a DNA test in one of the cases. Celibacy "is a personal option of faith required by the Catholic church," but everything humans do is flawed, the president said in an interview published Sunday by Argentine newspaper Clarin.

Royal chauffeur suspended over security lapse

LONDON (AP)—A royal chauffeur was suspended Sunday over allegations he gave undercover reporters a tour of Queen Elizabeth II's luxury limousines and other sensitive areas of her Buckingham Palace home in exchange for money. London police said they were examining the allegations and holding talks on security with staff at the London palace following reports of the breach. The News of the World tabloid said two of its reporters, posing as wealthy Middle Eastern businessmen, were shown round secure areas of Buckingham Palace and allowed to sit inside Bentleys used by the royal family. The newspaper said it paid the chauffeur 1,000 pounds ($1,588) for the tour.

US military: Iraq attacks down nearly 60 percent

BAGHDAD (AP)—High-profile attacks in Iraq have fallen nearly 60 percent in the past year, the U.S. military said Sunday, though violence continues to plague the northern city of Mosul, where a suicide car bomber targeting an American convoy killed one Iraqi and wounded 45 others.

Mosul is considered the last urban stronghold of al-Qaida in Iraq, and Sunday's attack comes as military operations are being conducted there before a June 30 deadline for U.S. forces to pull out of Iraq's cities.

The Iraqi government has said that deadline will not be extended, despite concerns by American military commanders that Iraqi forces may not be ready to take on security for Mosul.

U.S. military spokesman Maj. Gen. David Perkins said Sunday that high-profile attacks—those involving a high number of casualties—have fallen 58 percent from last March and more than 50 percent from a month ago.

There were 28 high-profile attacks in April and 13 so far this month, Perkins said. Those April attacks killed about 235 people and raised fears that the security gains of the past two years were eroding.

AP

A US soldier wearing a wig announces a new round as soldiers of the 1-18 Combined Arms Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division watch comrades during a "Fight Night" at their base in Kazimiyah neighborhood in Baghdad, Iraq, Saturday, May 23, 2009.

Iraqi military spokesman, Maj. Gen. Qassim al-Moussawi, insisted Iraq's security forces were ready to take over as U.S. forces leave Iraq's cities.

"We are confident that Iraqi security forces are able to eliminate the remaining terrorist groups despite desperate acts by them to destabilize the situation," he told reporters during a joint U.S.-Iraqi briefing in Baghdad.

Perkins said the two sides were still working out the details of the June 30 withdrawal, but said some U.S. noncombat personnel would remain inside Iraq's cities.

"It is justified to be concerned because, historically, transition has been a vulnerable period," he said.

Perkins said the two sides were working closely to try to minimize attacks during the transition.

President Barack Obama has announced the withdrawal of all U.S. combat troops by Aug. 31, 2010, leaving 30,000 to 50,000 troops in advisory roles. Those remaining troops must leave Iraq by the end of 2011.

Despite numerous U.S.-Iraqi military operations, Sunni insurgents remain active in Mosul, 225 miles (360 kilometers) northwest of Baghdad, and in Diyala province south of Mosul.

Lt. Col. David Doherty, a military spokesman, said initial reports showed 38 people were injured and one other was killed in Sunday's suicide bombing. He said there were no reports of American casualties.

An Iraqi hospital official said 45 civilians were wounded. An Iraqi police official said 34 were wounded and no one was killed. Conflicting casualty numbers are common in Iraq in the aftermath of an attack. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release the information.

The U.S. military also announced the arrest of a suspected female ringleader of a group believed responsible for recruiting women to be suicide bombers.

In a statement released Sunday, the military said the woman was arrested in Baghdad on Saturday.

Also Sunday, the country's Sunni vice president stepped down as leader of his party, whose influence within the Sunni community has been diminishing.

Police: Victim in Sikh temple shooting dies

VIENNA (AP)—Sikhs wielding knives and a handgun attacked two preachers at a rival temple in Vienna in a brawl that left one of the victims dead Monday and at least 15 others wounded, police said. A related clash later broke out in northern India.

Witnesses said a group of bearded and turbaned men attacked the religious leaders at the temple in Austria's capital on Sunday and their followers moved to defend them.

The preachers were among the six people who suffered serious wounds and were identified by Indian diplomats and police as Niranjan Das and Sant Rama Nand.

Both were initially described as in satisfactory condition after operations for gunshot wounds. But a police official who declined to identify himself on the telephone, in line with Austrian custom, said early Monday that the condition of Nand, 57 subsequently worsened and he died shortly after midnight.

Police spokesman Michael Takacs earlier said the scene was "like a battlefield." Six suspects were in custody with more arrests possible, he said.

Mohnder Ram, a worshipper who said he had lived in Vienna for decades and attended services at the temple every Sunday, said it is run by followers of Shri Guru Ravidas, a 14th-century founder of a Sikh sect called Dera Sach Khand.

In India, fighting between mainstream Sikhs and followers of the guru broke out in the northern city of Jalandhar several hours after the Vienna clash, in what locals there described as an apparent reaction to the melee in the Austrian capital. Sanjiv Kalra, a senior police official at Jalandhar, said that protesters had set fire to a number of vehicles and erected several roadblocks across the city. He gave no other details.

Witnesses in Vienna spoke of chaos.

"Everybody was praying and then it started with knives and a pistol," said Nermal Singh, barefooted, his shirt bloodied and his head bandaged from what he said was a knife wound.

Ram, 72, said, "I heard four to five shots" in the temple. "People started screaming, children were crying as they ran out.

"It was like war. There was lots of blood everywhere."

Ram also spoke of "blood everywhere," adding: "People were hit and stabbed with knives."

Bimla Lalka, who lives in a ground-floor apartment opposite the building housing the temple, said she saw seven or eight men with lengthy beards and dark blue and orange turbans fleeing the building.

Netanyahu: We'll build in existing settlements

JERUSALEM (AP)—Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday that Israel will continue to build homes in existing West Bank settlements, defying U.S. calls to halt settlement growth.

The comments came days after a contentious visit to the White House and threatened to widen a growing rift with the Obama administration. The U.S. considers the settlements—home to some 280,000 Israelis—obstacles to peace since they are built on captured territory the Palestinians claim for a future state.

Netanyahu told the weekly meeting of his Cabinet that he would not allow any new settlements to be created, but said existing settlements must be allowed to expand for "natural growth," the ill-defined term Israel uses for population growth in the settlements.

"We will not build new settlements," he said, according to remarks released by his office. "But it is not fair not to provide a solution to natural growth."

An official who attended the meeting quoted Netanyahu as saying, "There is no way that we are going to tell people not to have children or to force young people to move away from their families." The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the meeting was closed.

Netanyahu has voiced this policy before, but his affirmation of his plans took on added significance coming so close after his tense first White House visit with President Barack Obama. U.S. policy on Israeli settlements does not allow for natural growth.

Israeli officials have sought to play down their differences with Washington, saying that joint working groups will continue discussions on the matter. The settlement issue is sure to come up this week when Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas goes to the White House.

Facebook block ahead of Iran vote hampers youth

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's decision to block access to Facebook—less than three weeks before nationwide elections—drew sharp criticism Sunday from a reformist opposition hoping to mobilize the youth vote and unseat President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

The decision, critics said, forces Iranians to rely on state-run media and other government sources ahead of the June 12 election.

It also appeared to be a direct strike at the youth vote that could pose challenges to Ahmadinejad's re-election bid.

More than half of Iran's population was born after the 1979 Islamic Revolution and young voters make up a huge bloc—which helped former reformist President Mohammad Khatami to back-to-back victories in 1997 and 2001 but failed to rally strongly behind Ahmadinejad's opponent, Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, four years ago.

Young voters are now strongly courted by the main reformist candidate, Mir Hossein Mousavi, as the possible swing factor.

"Every single media outlet that is seen as competition for Ahmadinejad is at risk of being closed," said Shahab Tabatabaei, a top aide for Mousavi, the leading reformist candidate. "Placing limits on the competition is the top priority of the government."

Tabatabaei said the Facebook block was "a swift reaction" to a major pro-Mousavi rally Saturday in a Tehran sports stadium that included an appearance by Khatami and many young people waving green banners and scarves—the symbolic color of the Mousavi campaign.

Iranian authorities often block specific Web sites and blogs considered critical of the Islamic regime, but critics of the latest decision said the loss of Facebook—and possibly other Web sites popular with reformists—means Iranians must rely on the government for information.

Overdrive

2010 HONDA INSIGHT

A more affordable way to go green

THE WASHINGTON POST

The 2010 Honda Insight gas-electric hybrid sedan/hatchback is to hybrid automotive technology what populism is to politics: designed and marketed for the masses. It's also one of the most fun-to-drive commuter cars available in the United States.

BY WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—The environmental route has been a road most often taken by the rich because only the rich could afford to go that way—until now.

Welcome the 2010 Honda Insight gas-electric hybrid sedan/hatchback. It is to hybrid automotive technology what populism is to politics—designed and marketed for the masses.

Offered at several thousand dollars less than the similarly sculpted Toyota Prius, another gas-electric with an arrow-like body designed to reduce wind resistance, the new Insight is bound to win buyers largely at Toyota's expense.

Function will play as big a role as pricing in that conquest.

Part of the Prius sedan's snob appeal is its complexity. It is a parallel-series, or "full" hybrid that Toyota calls "synergy drive." Electric-motor and gasoline-engine propulsion systems, guided by computers, constantly interact in the Prius yielding a combined city/highway mileage of nearly 50 miles per gallon.

The Insight—initially produced from 1999 to 2006 as a two-seat, three-door hatchback—was a "mild hybrid" relying on Honda's "integrated motor assist" (IMA) system. With IMA, the electric motor assisted the gasoline engine in start-from-stop sequences and battery recharging.

The Insight was the first gas-electric car sold in the United States. But its exterior styling resembled something from a Star Trek studio. That body design, combined with the car's two-seat interior, rendered it a niche vehicle.

The reborn Insight relies on a substantially improved IMA system that uses a lighter, but more powerful nickel-metal hydride battery pack, a more compact electric motor, and an updated version of Honda's 1.3-liter, inline four-cylinder engine.

Compared with Toyota's "synergy drive," the system used in the Insight is less fancy. It has an air of simplicity that counters the seemingly self-conscious complexity and attendant "this-is-a-real-hybrid" snobbery of the Prius.

The new Insight gets 40 miles per gallon in the city and 43 miles per gallon on the highway for a combined city/highway mileage of 41.5 miles per gallon. Those numbers give the Prius nearly nine miles per gallon more in combined city/highway mileage rankings. But, considering its pricing and overall quality and performance, I happily would choose the new Insight over the Prius.

My road-test crew—my wife, Mary Anne, and Washington Post associate for vehicle evaluations Ria Manglapus—join me in that assessment.

The three of us deemed the Insight spirited and comfortable enough to take on long trips, which we did on drives between Virginia and New York. We loved the automobile's fit and finish—excellent overall craftsmanship employing high-quality cabin materials and featuring an ergonomically smart interior that's easily among best in class.

NUTS & BOLTS

BY WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

COMPLAINTS
The rear cabin is tight. Also, like other small Honda cars, road noise in the Insight can be a tad disturbing.

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING
Good marks in all three. It is one of the most fun-to-drive commuter cars available in the United States.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT
Crowd reaction mirrors that given to the Prius. Those who love it are passionate. But those who dislike it have equal fervor.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT
The new Insight is a compact, front-wheel-drive car with a front-mounted gasoline and electric (small electric motor) propulsion system. It seats five, as opposed to the original two-seater Insight. It has four side doors and a rear hatch, as opposed to the original three-door hatchback.

PROPULSION/ TRANSMISSION
The 1.3-liter, inline four-cylinder engine delivers 98 horsepower at 5,800 revolutions per minute and 123 foot-pounds of torque at 1,000 revolutions per minute. It is assisted by a permanent-magnet electric motor, powered by a nickel-metal hydride battery pack, delivering the equivalent of 13 horsepower at 1,500 revolutions per minute and 58 foot-pounds of torque at 1,000 revolutions per minute. The propulsion system is linked to a continuously variable automatic transmission that uses a metal drive belt and series of pulleys to transmit drive power to the front wheels.

CAPACITIES
In addition to seating for five people, the Insight offers a maximum 32 cubic feet of luggage space. The gas tank holds 10.6 gallons of recommended regular unleaded fuel.

MILEAGE
Real-world mileage was pretty much as advertised — 40 miles per gallon in the city and nearly 42 miles per gallon on the highway.

SAFETY
Standard equipment includes electronic stability and traction control, six air bags (two front, two side, two rear) and antilock brakes. But we are disappointed that, in order to cut costs, Honda is using disc brakes up front and old-fashioned drum brakes in the rear. We prefer all-around disc brakes.

PRICE
Base price on the tested 2010 Honda Insight with onboard navigation is $23,100. Dealer's invoice price on that model is $21,700. Price as tested is $23,770, including a $670 destination charge. Dealer's price as tested is $22,460. By comparison, base price on the comparable Toyota Prius is $27,270. Add $1,800 for onboard navigation and a $720 destination charge for a total Prius sales price of $29,790. Prices are sourced from Honda, Toyota, Edmunds.com, and Cars.com, an affiliate of The Washington Post.

PURSE-STRINGS NOTE
All things considered, the advantage goes to Honda.

Taking safety to Swedish heights

By DAN NEIL
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Volvo recently announced a new goal: By 2020, its cars would be so safe that no one would die behind the wheel of a Volvo. These higher standards will mean a radical redefinition of safety, and Volvo technology push is hitting the moment just right.

The new XC60 compact SUV includes the company's first generation of active collision prevention systems, called City Safety.

City Safety uses a laser-radar system to sweep the road ahead, scanning for stationary objects. At speeds under 20 mph, if the system senses that the driver is about to hit an object, it will engage the brakes up to 50 percent of maximum braking force.

At speeds under 10 mph—assuming the driver makes no effort to avoid the collision—the XC60 will stop short of impact. At speeds between 10 and 19 mph, the impact may still occur but the force will be greatly diminished.

Now, unless you happen to be using a samurai sword to pick your teeth, such accidents are not life threatening. Even so, according to Volvo, these pitiful fender-benders account for 75 percent of all vehicle collisions and they are certainly among the most miserable of insurance claims, simply because so high a percentage of the repair cost is the out-of-pocket deductible.

I would also note that much of the high-strength boron steel used in a Volvo can't be just bent back into shape by a local repair shop; the pieces have to be cut out and thrown away. That's one reason a 15-mph front crash can easily run over $10,000 to repair.

From here, Volvo expects its cars will continue to reach out with millimeter-wave feelers to sense the road and react to emergent situations. The next generation of City Safety will likely work with the active cruise control so that a future Volvo would slow from 60 mph to a dead stop to avoid a collision, if the driver is not paying attention (Mercedes-Benz's system works like that).

Other possibilities include systems that use GPS data to analyze the road and, if the driver is going too fast, will automatically brake, thus helping avoid an off-road shunt. With info from the traction control system, rain sensor and frost sensor, the car could also modulate speed to account for inclement conditions.

Lane departure warning and lane-keeping technology (where the car reads the road and helps the driver maintain what's called "lane discipline") are both available on the Volvo and are now fairly common in the premium/luxury segments.

Such systems are obvious precursors to a sort of autopilot. Soon cars will be able to talk to one another through vehicle-to-vehicle communications (V2V), allowing them to pack more closely on the freeway, saving time and fuel and making best use of available roadways.

Similar communications would allow cars to chat with the infrastructure itself in a way that might, ultimately, prevent crashes at intersections, which is the species of accident that is most difficult to eliminate.

Eventually, manufacturers are going to have to take weight out of vehicles to wring more mileage out of them, and that means relying on less steel and more electronics. Volvo, which as a brand has often seemed rather linear and dowdy, suddenly looks quite avant-garde.

The XC60—a lovely, flowing shape, like a piece of Murano glass—has many things going for it. It's got a horsy, turbocharged engine (3.0-liter inline six, 281 hp); a six-speed automatic; all-wheel drive; standard leather; and—this spring, at least—a free panoramic sunroof thrown in as an introductory offer.

It also has over 9 inches of ground clearance, which is very high-hipped for so svelte a machine. It cracks off clean, crisp, turbo-warbling acceleration in the 7-second-to-60-mph range and the corner-to-corner handling is righteous. The car is also loaded with standard and optional safety features, including Hill Descent Control and Volvo's side-impact protection system (SIPS).

Trouble is, all this adds up to a hugely heavy machine, in excess of 4,200 pounds for a vehicle only 182.2 inches long. That heft directly correlates to the car's middling fuel economy, 15/22 miles per gallon, city/highway. I observed fuel economy about a third less.

Future vehicle fuel economy depends on re-writing crash test standards to accommodate electronics-based collision avoidance. After all, silicon is much lighter than steel.

NUTS & BOLTS

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times

Base price: $37,200
Price, as tested: $38,550
Powertrain: turbocharged 3.0-liter, DOHC, 24-valve inline six-cylinder with variable valve timing; six-speed automatic transmission with manual shift mode; all-wheel drive.
Horsepower: 281 at 5,600 rpm
Torque: 295 pound-feet at 1,500-4,800 rpm
Curb weight: 4,200 pounds (est.)
0-60 mph: 7 seconds
Wheelbase: 109.2 inches
Overall length: 182.2 inches
EPA fuel economy: 16/22 mpg, city/highway
Final thoughts: the full-body armor of premium crossovers

Life & Style

Signs of Summer

By MONICA HESSE
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

Fussy film historians will tell you that the heyday of the movie poster is long gone. In the 1930s, they were often hand-drawn works of art—precious cargo that traveled from theater to theater on Greyhound buses. Today, your typical blitzed-out ad campaign includes teasers, trailers, behind-the-scenes HBO specials, and teeny-weeny banners streaming across iPods. Posters can get lost in a big corporate shuffle.

They travel between studios, design firms that specialize in "key art"—that's industry-speak for movie marketing materials—and the Motion Picture Association of America, which has the final say in taste matters. (It famously nixed the first draft of last year's "Zack and Miri Make a Porno" poster for being too risque.)

But people still seek art in the bureaucracy. June will see Hollywood's 38th annual Key Art Awards, which honor everything from best film poster to best DVD menu design to best Jumbotron display. And the challenges in creating a quality poster remain the same: "You have one second" to capture a viewer, says Jeffrey Bacon, an advisory board member for the Key Art Awards. "One second with no sound, no movement, no dialogue—it's one of the most challenging ways of advertising."

We polled a panel of film experts to analyze some upcoming posters and teasers (the artwork that comes before the "official" posters) and share what their one-second glances reveal.

The Experts

- Jeffrey Bacon, advisory board member of the Key Art Awards
- Ray Barry, director of the AFI Silver Theatre
- Jason Lindeman, creative director of Ignition Print, which designed the posters for "The Ugly Truth"
- Ellen Lupton, director of the Maryland Institute College of Art's graphic design MFA program
- David Nicholson, founder of the Internet Movie Poster Awards and IMPawards.com
- Andrew Percival, senior VP of Mojo, which designed the posters for "Away We Go" and "(500) Days of Summer"
- Peter Rollberg, director of film studies at George Washington University
- Damon Wolf, CEO of Crew Creative Advertising, which helped design the posters for "Half-Blood Prince" and "Br no"

Joint Death Anniversary

WE THE FAMILY OF THE LATE †EMERY JOSEPH (EJ) I/†PEDRO DLC PANGELINAN AND †AGUSTINA Q. INOS HUMBLY REQUEST FAMILIES, RELATIVES, AND FRIENDS TO JOIN US IN PRAYERS AS WE COMMEMORATE THE PASSING OF OUR BELOVEDS UNTO ETERNAL LIFE.

EJ 1ST | PEDRO 5TH | AGUSTINA 20TH

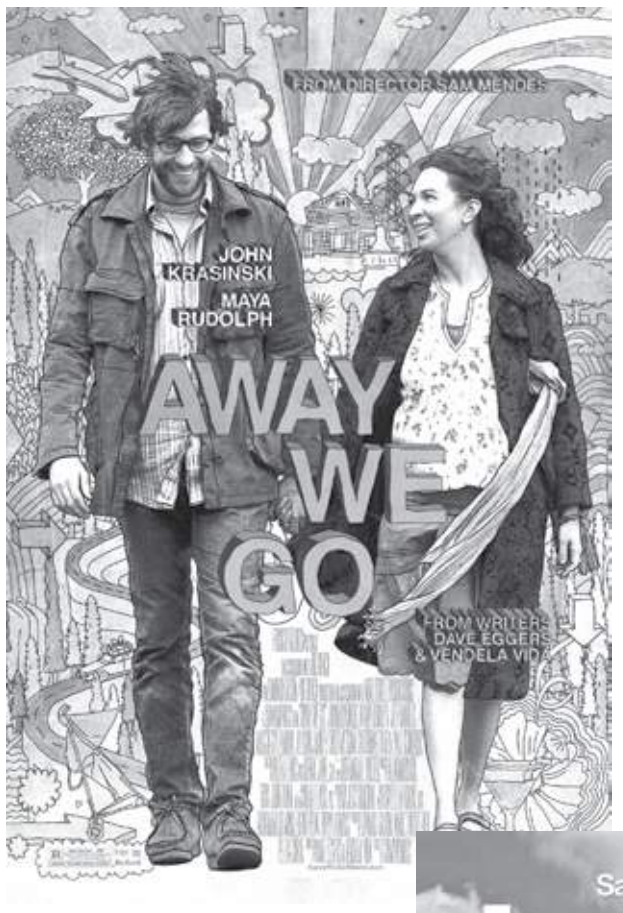
EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATIONS FOLLOWED BY HOLY ROSARY AT ST. JUDE CHURCH AS FOLLOWS:

Monday to Friday, May 18-22, 2009	6:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 23, 2009	7:00 a.m.
Sunday, May 24, 2009	6:00, 8:00, & 10:00 a. m.
Monday, May 25, 2009	6:00 p.m.

ON THE FINAL DAY, TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2009, HOLY ROSARY WILL BE RECITED AT ST. JUDE CHURCH AT 5:15 P.M., FOLLOWED BY MASS AT 6:00 P.M. IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER, DINNER WILL BE SERVED AT THE RESIDENCE OF MS. JUDY INOS PANGELINAN.

YOUR PRESENCE AND PRAYERS IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

JUDY INOS PANGELINAN & FAMILY
MADELAINE M. PANGELINAN & SONS
THOMAS M & LAURA INOS MANGLONA & FAMILY
JUAN Q & JULIE R. INOS & FAMILY



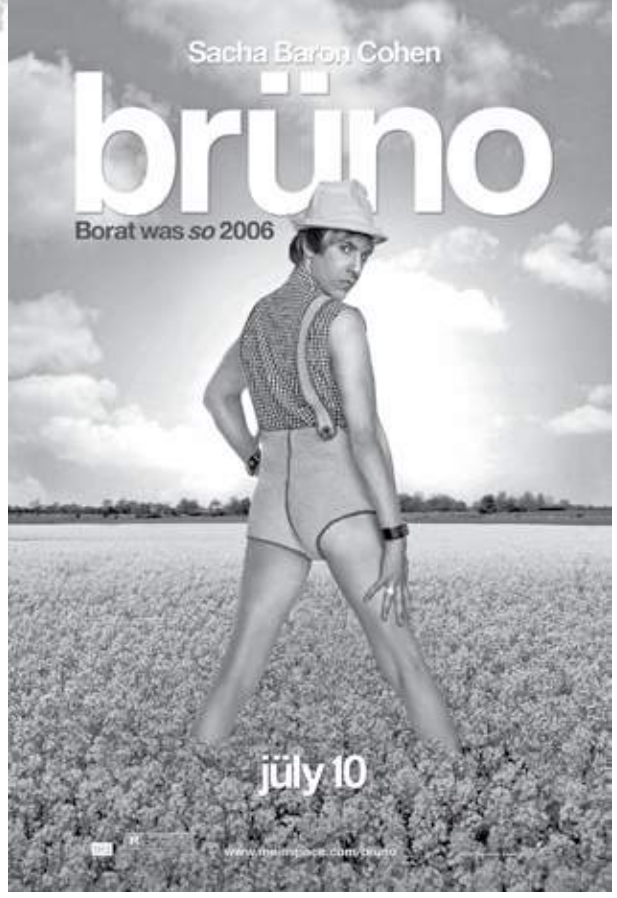
"Away We Go"

Just looking at the art for this movie about expectant hipsters makes us approximately 7 percent cooler. And gives us a strange desire to move to Brooklyn. Preferably Williamsburg. June 12.

Percival (designer): We were interested in showing the talent in a big way, but also creating this environment for them to live in.

Bacon: This one gets a purple heart in advertising land, at a time when other people are just doing big heads.

Barry: I feel I've landed somewhere between a Comcast commercial and "Juno."



"Brüno"

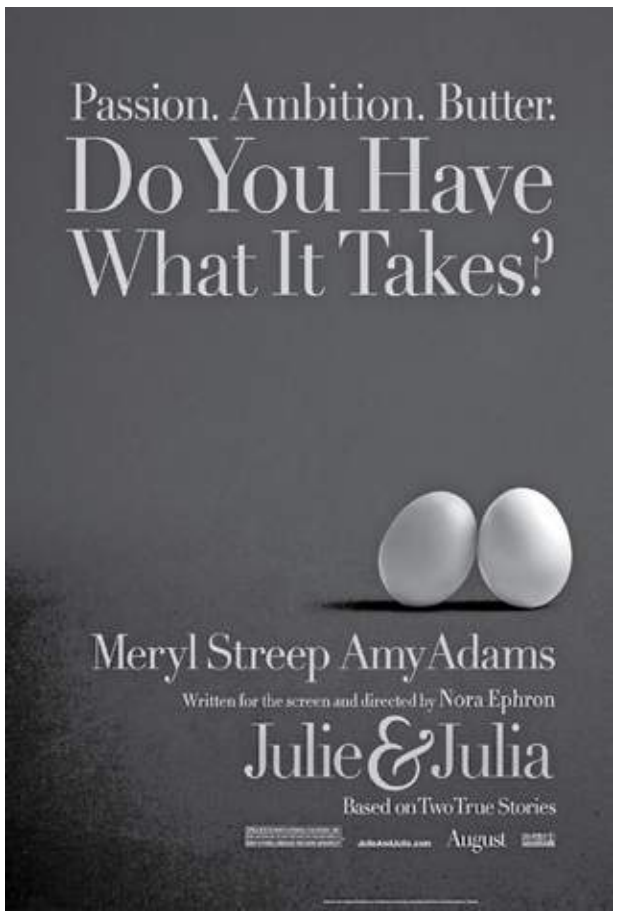
The tagline's "Borat" shout-out is a nice wink to Sacha Baron Cohen fans. But the best thing about this poster is the details—see the faux-German MySpace address at the bottom. July 10.

Wolf (designer): It's a character in lederhosen standing in flowers. You instantly smile!

Rollberg: This isn't outrageous enough. Sacha Baron Cohen doesn't work as inoffensive.

Lupton: The umlauts are what makes this poster. It just looks like something you would buy at Ikea.

Nicholson: Ever since "The 40-Year-Old Virgin," there have been probably a dozen movies where it's just, "Here we are, we're standing here and you have taken a photo of us. We are actors, laugh at us."


Passion. Ambition. Butter.
Do You Have What It Takes?
Meryl Streep Amy Adams
Written for the screen and directed by Nora Ephron
Julie & Julia
Based on Two True Stories
August

"Julie & Julia"

Something's missing here. Oh, wait, could it be the film's two huge stars, Meryl Streep and Amy Adams? While the primarily text poster will appeal to the movie's natural audience—literary types who read the food memoir on which it's based—we'd prefer Adams cutely dusted in pastry flour. Aug. 7.

Lupton: This is very high-minded, with classic typography. This isn't a date movie—it's for women in their late 50s to go to with their girlfriends.

Rollberg: This is so inventive. It makes you think, it makes you smile, it's surprising....

Nicholson: I assumed this was a movie about two battling chefs.

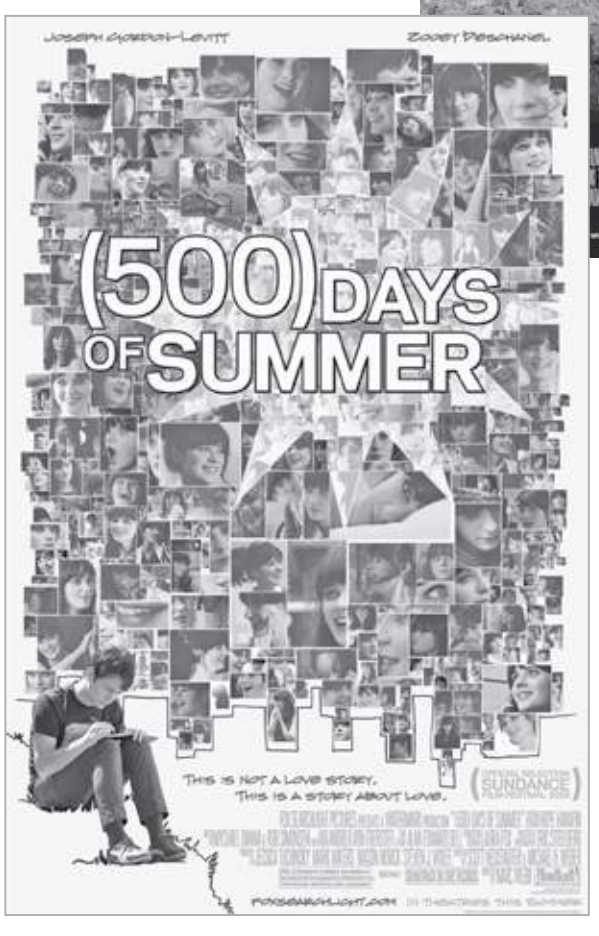
"Departures"

Any time marketers want to convince you that a movie is smart, they package it in a format we call "Attack of the Laurels." Count the six references to this film's award-nabbing pedigree. June 19.

Nicholson: It's got something to do with death? I'm picturing him playing cello as they're burying a person?

Barry: What do we have here, the Japanese "Sound of Music"?

Lupton: I'm afraid I'm going to hear the God voice of Morgan Freeman.



"(500) Days of Summer"

Summery and soothing colors—along with the combo of Joseph Gordon-Levitt's intense journaling plus vaguely creepy photo collage send us straight back to high school. Cue mix tape. July 17.

Percival (designer): (Fox Searchlight) suggested we have lots of images of summer. I insisted it be 500 images exactly. You can count them.

Bacon: This is kind of the anti-poster. It accomplishes scale with intimacy rather than huge size.

Rollberg: You kind of wonder, is this some stalker who has made a psychopath shrine?

Nicholson: Well, if you're a fan of Zooey Deschanel ...

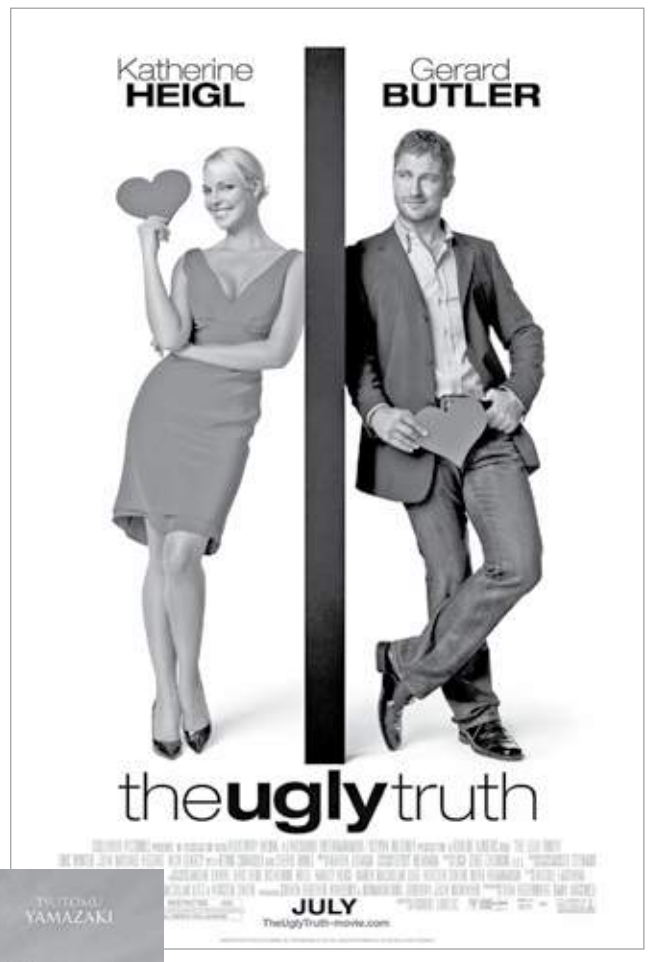
"Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen"

The official "Transformers" poster more prominently features the franchise's major characters: Optimus Prime, Bumblebee, Megan Fox's breasts. This teaser's evil-red-eyes approach is subtler—which can either translate as spooky or Whaa? June 24.

Rollberg: Gloomy, foreboding, incomprehensible. It's meant to be scary, but I'm not scared.

Bacon: This is a beautiful (example of controlling) the discovery process, as opposed to "Oh, there's a gigantic Transformer logo."

Nicholson: For me, it's a little too insidery. But real fans would look at that and say, "It's Decepticon." Or whoever that is.



"The Ugly Truth"

Clues: Cute girl. Cute guy. Seem to dislike each other? Probably don't. Folks, we must be in RomCom land. July 24.

Lindeman (designer): This is pretty heavy. It's saying, guys work with their (expletives), women work with their heads. I can't believe this one got through. The MPAA kills everything.

Bacon: The limited color palette is great....It's like jazz—what you take out is as important as what stays in.

Rollberg: Ugh, I've had my share of unshaved guys in their 30s.

Message of Appreciation

We the family of the late

†Carmen Pangelinan Agulto

would like to extend our utmost appreciation and heartfelt thank you to our relatives and friends for your comforting words and support during our bereavement at the passing of our beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, great great-grandmother, and sister.

We would also like to extend our appreciation to Bishop Tomas Camacho, Fr. Ryan Jimenez, Fr. Francisco (Jojo) Santos, Greg Sablan-Techa, the altar servers, Cabrera Funeral Home, Kantaye Kristo Rai Choir, the doctors and nurses at the Commonwealth Health Center for the care that they provided our beloved one during her last few days. We will be forever grateful for the kindness and we will always remember you all in our prayers.

Josephina P. & Jesus R. Tenorio
†Ana P. & Vicente C. Aldan
Vicente & Margarita Agulto
Antonia A. & Vicente C. Aldan
Ramona Margarita & Jose H. Borja
Ramon & Dalia Agulto
Virginia A. & Jose C. Cruz
Luis P. & Lolita Agulto
Aguida P. Sablan

Unlikely UK sensation Boyle sings rousing 'Memory'

LONDON (AP)—Surprise singing sensation Susan Boyle made a new television appearance, showcasing once again her soaring voice—but refusing to compromise on the frumpy look that made her an Internet sensation.

The shy church volunteer gave a rousing, but occasionally nervous, performance on the "American Idol"-style show "Britain's Got Talent," with a version of the song "Memory" from the musical "Cats."

Members of the public voting in a telephone poll picked her as the best of eight performers who appeared Sunday, meaning she will sing again in the contest's final next Saturday.

Flashing a broad smile, Boyle danced in delight as results were announced and said she had relished the chance to perform. "Fantastic, absolutely fantastic," she said. "What pressure? I've really enjoyed myself tonight."

Wearing a plum colored beaded dress—and a touch more makeup than during her last performance—but with the same unruly shock of hair, Boyle overcame early jitters to deliver a powerful vocal.

Producers said the 47-year-old's appearance was being posted on the Internet almost immediately, after about 60 million people watched her last performance via YouTube.

In her first performance last month, judges who'd raised eyebrows at Boyle's dowdy image were won over by her bold voice and surprisingly confident performance of "I Dreamed a Dream" from the musical "Les Miserables." The sometimes awkward looking Scot won praise from celebrities, including Oprah Winfrey and Demi Moore, and even won a mention in her favorite cartoon "The Simpsons."

AP

In this April 16, 2009 file photo, Susan Boyle, who's performance on the television show "Britain's Got Talent" wowed the judges, poses singing with a hairbrush at her home in Blackburn, Scotland.

On Sunday, the show's judges and audience rose to their feet to applaud, but those posting comments to the Twitter Web site appeared divided. While some hailed her performance, others appeared underwhelmed.

Bookmaker William Hill has made her a runaway favorite to win on May 30.

Contestants are competing to perform at Britain's annual Royal Variety Show—attended by members of the royal family—and win a 100,000 pound ($159,000) prize.

The singer, who lives alone with her cat Pebbles in one of Scotland's poorest regions, said before Sunday's performance that she wouldn't transform her appearance. "I just want people to see me for who I am, and do my best at singing the song, that's what I am focusing on," she said.

Boyle, who says she's never been kissed, grew up the youngest of nine children in Blackburn, a community of 4,750 people 20 miles (32 kilometers) west of Edinburgh, in Scotland, and a district blighted by unemployment and crime. She suffered learning difficulties as a child and was bullied by other children.

As an adult, she's struggled for work but had been a regular on her local karaoke circuit and performed in church choirs.

In an interview with The Associated Press at her home last month, she said the death of her mother had inspired her to enter the TV talent show.

"I wanted to show her I could do something with my life," Boyle said.

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Terminator Salvation

Friday		4:15	7:30	10:00
Sat & Sun	1:10	4:15	7:30	10:00
Monday	1:10	4:15	7:30	
Tue thru Thurs		4:15	7:30	

Christian Bale, Sam Worthington
Action, Sci-Fi • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
The year is 2018. Judgment Day has come and gone, leveling modern civilization. An army of Terminators roams the post-apocalyptic landscape, killing or collecting humans where they hide in the desolate cities and deserts. But small groups of survivors have organized into a Resistance, hiding in underground bunkers and striking when they can against an enemy force that vastly outnumbers them.

Night at the Museum 2

Friday		4:10	7:15	9:40
Sat & Sun	1:15	4:10	7:15	9:40
Monday	1:15	4:10	7:15	
Tue thru Thurs		4:10	7:15	

Den Stiller, Amy Adams
Comedy, Sequel • Rated PG

Synopsis
Night has fallen upon the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC. The guides have gone home, the lights are out, the school kids are tucked in their beds, yet something incredible is stirring as former night guard Larry Daley finds himself lured into his biggest, most imagination-boggling adventure yet in which history truly comes alive. In this second installment of the Night at the Museum saga, Larry faces a battle so epic it could only unfold in the corridors of the world's largest museum.

The Soloist

Friday		4:25	7:20	9:30
Sat & Sun	1:30	4:25	7:20	9:30
Monday	1:30	4:25	7:20	
Tue thru Thurs		4:25	7:20	

Jamie Foxx, Robert Downey, Jr.
Drama, Biopic • Rated PG 13

Dance Flick

Friday		4:30	7:25	9:55
Sat & Sun	1:25	4:30	7:25	9:55
Monday	1:25	4:30	7:25	
Tue thru Thurs		4:30	7:25	

Damon Wayans, Jr., Craig Wayans
Action, Comedy • Rated PG 13

★ ★ ★

Angels and Demons

Friday		4:20	7:05	9:50
Sat & Sun	1:20	4:20	7:05	9:50
Monday	1:20	4:20	7:05	
Tue thru Thurs		4:20	7:05	

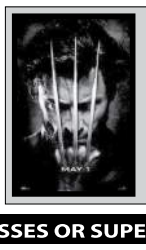
Tom Hanks, Ewan McGregor
Thriller, Religion • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
When Robert Langdon discovers evidence of the resurgence of an ancient secret brotherhood known as the Illuminati—the most powerful underground organization in history—he also faces a deadly threat to the existence of the secret organization's most despised enemy: the Catholic Church. When Langdon learns that the clock is ticking on an unstoppable Illuminati time bomb, he jets to Rome, where he joins forces with Vittoria Vetra, a beautiful and enigmatic Italian scientist.

Star Trek

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:45
Sat & Sun	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:45
Monday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Tue thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Chris Pine, Winona Ryder
Sci-Fi, Adaptation • Rated PG 13



X-Men Origins:Wolverine

Friday		4:05	7:10	9:35
Sat & Sun	1:05	4:05	7:10	9:35
Monday	1:05	4:05	7:10	
Tue thru Thurs		4:05	7:10	

Hugh Jackman, Liev Schreiber
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13

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Haneke's 'The White Ribbon' wins Cannes top prize

CANNES, France (AP)—Austrian director Michael Haneke's somber drama "The White Ribbon" claimed the top prize Sunday at the Cannes Film Festival, where Quentin Tarantino and Lars von Trier entries earned the acting honors.

It was a big night for Austria, whose triumphs included Christoph Waltz as best actor for Tarantino's World War II epic "Inglourious Basterds." Charlotte Gainsbourg won the best-actress honor for von Trier's "Antichrist," a film that riled and repelled many Cannes viewers with its explicit images of physical abuse involving a grieving couple.

Haneke addressed his wife as he accepted his award, noting that "happiness is very rare."

"This is one moment in my life in which I'm very happy, and so are you, I believe," said Haneke, who received the festival's Palme d'Or for his gorgeously photographed black-and-white tale. "The White Ribbon" examines themes of communal guilt, distrust and punishment among residents of a small German town besieged by tragedies and strange occurrences as World War I approaches.

AP

French actress Charlotte Gainsbourg poses with the Best Actress award she received for the film 'Antichrist' during the awards ceremony during the 62nd International film festival in Cannes, southern France, Sunday, May 24, 2009.

The second-place grand prize went to French director Jacques Audiard's prison drama "A Prophet," about an illiterate inmate who educates himself and becomes a player in drug and smuggling circles.

Gainsbourg delivers a terrifying performance as a psychotic woman torturing her husband (Willem Dafoe) and mutilating herself during a trip to the woods intended as a healing sojourn after the death of their child.

Waltz earned the best-actor award for his gleefully homicidal role as Nazi Col. Hans Landa, renowned in Germany as an ace "Jew hunter" in "Inglourious Basterds," Tarantino's rewrite of the history books that follows the exploits of a band of Jewish Allied commandos led by Brad Pitt. Tarantino spins a wildly different take on how the war ended as Pitt's crew plots to take out top Nazi leaders at a film premiere in Paris.

"Above all I owe this to Hans Landa and his unique and inimitable creator, Quentin Tarantino," Waltz said. "You gave me my vocation back."

Gainsbourg thanked Dafoe and von Trier, "who allowed me to live what I believe to be the strongest, most painful and most exciting experience of my whole life." She also thanked her father, the late singer and actor Serge Gainsbourg, who would have been "proud and shocked, I hope."

The nine-member Cannes jury headed by French actress Isabelle Huppert, which included actresses Robin Wright Penn and Asia Argento and director James Gray, presented a special award to beloved French filmmaker Alain Resnais, who was in the competition with the offbeat tale "Wild Grass." The film follows the odd relationships that spring up after a married man forges a relationship with a woman whose stolen wallet he recovers.

Several well-received entries among the 20 Cannes competition films were shut out for prizes, including two from past Palme d'Or winners—Jane Campion's historical pageant "Bright Star" and Ken Loach's soccer-themed comedy "Looking for Eric."

Also snubbed were Academy Award winners Ang Lee for his rock 'n' roll comedy "Taking Woodstock" and Pedro Almodovar for his tragic romance "Broken Embraces."

British director Andrea Arnold's teen drama "Fish Tank" and South Korean filmmaker Park Chan-wook's vampire romance "Thirst" shared the festival's jury prize, the third-place award. Arnold won the same prize with her first film, "Red Road," in 2006, while Park won the festival's second-place honor with "Old Boy" in 2004.

The directing award went to Filipino filmmaker Brillante Mendoza for "Kinatay," a harsh story centered on police inflicting bloody retribution on a prostitute who crossed them.

T.I. performing 2 days before heading to prison

ATLANTA (AP)—T.I. is taking the stage for his last concert before heading to prison.

The Grammy-winning rapper is set to perform in Atlanta on Sunday night, two days before he begins his prison time on a federal weapons conviction. He must report by noon Tuesday to the Federal Correction Institution at Forrest City, Ark. His sentence is for a year and a day.

The 28-year-old rapper, whose real name is Clifford J. Harris Jr., was arrested after trying to buy unregistered machine guns and silencers from undercover federal agents in 2007.

T.I. is expected to perform in front of about 16,300 people at Philips Arena.

T.I. won a Grammy for "Swagga Like Us" that he performed with Jay-Z.

The Wiggles are moving to Sprout kids TV network

NEW YORK (AP)—The Sprout TV network will be boasting lots of Wiggle room starting this summer, when it welcomes the Wiggles to its lineup.

This Australian-bred musical group, recognized as the world's No. 1 preschool entertainment act, will join Sprout on Aug. 24, the network announced Thursday. Sprout, aimed at kids age 2 to 5, will air episodes from the six seasons of "The Wiggles" series throughout its daily schedule.

In addition, the foursome in the colorful T-shirts will host Sprout's wake-up program with newly produced segments between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m. The group will perform original songs and skits as well as lead their young viewers in their special brand of wiggling.

"We want to get kids up and moving and singing and dancing with the Wiggles," said Sprout president Sandy Wax.

The Wiggles also will be featured on Sprout's on-demand and Web platforms. Sprout has exclusive U.S. rights to Wiggles content, both existing and new, Wax said.

Formed in 1991, the quartet—now consisting of Murray Cook, Jeff Fatt, Anthony Field and Sam Moran—perform more than 200 shows annually on four continents, and their TV series is seen in more than 110 countries. They end their seven-year stay at Disney Channel in June.

The Philadelphia-based Sprout network, available in 45 million households, airs shows that include "Sesame Street," "Bob the Builder," "Barney & Friends" and "Dragon Tales."

Johnson trades dancing shoes for racing helmet

AP

Olympic gold medalist Shawn Johnson raises her arms after completing a tire change NASCAR Coca-Cola 600 auto race at Lowe's Motor Speedway in Concord, N.C., Sunday, May 24, 2009.

CONCORD, N.C. (AP)—From winning "Dancing With the Stars" to riding in a stock car at 170 mph, gold medal-winning gymnast Shawn Johnson had quite a week.

Five days removed from her TV dancing victory, Johnson was bouncing around Lowe's Motor Speedway on Sunday, changing a tire and hanging out with legendary driver Bobby Allison before the Coca-Cola 600.

The 17-year-old high school junior was having plenty of fun—while acknowledging a big decision looms on whether to commit to the London Olympics.

"Once I go home and this settles down, I'll get back into training and start getting back into shape and seeing where that takes me," Johnson said. "As for 2012, I haven't made a decision yet."

Johnson won four medals last summer in Beijing: the gold on balance beam and silvers in the team, floor exercise and all-around. The winner of the Sullivan Award, given to the nation's top amateur athlete, then stopped gymnastics training to become the youngest competitor in "Dancing With the Stars."

She beat fellow finalists Gilles Marini and Melissa Rycroft on Tuesday for the crown. Then on Saturday she was at Charlotte, riding as a passenger with former driver Kyle Petty in her first trip to a NASCAR track.

"He actually got to 170 mph. I was squealing I guess. I couldn't even hear myself," Johnson said. "They said they played it back and I hit another note every time he shifted."

Johnson also did a backflip off a car, mimicking driver Carl Edwards' celebratory ritual after winning races.

"I stuck the landing," Johnson said, smiling.

On Sunday, the pint-sized Johnson didn't have enough strength to jack a car, but did change a tire and put gas in a car before posing for pictures with the three-time race champion Allison in a promotion with Coca-Cola.

She was to watch the race with her parents before heading to San Francisco for a charity dancing event with former Olympic figure skater Kristi Yamaguchi .

But soon, Johnson will return to the gym and make a decision on whether she'll try to be a 20-year-old Olympian in 2012.

"I don't really think I'm in a position to make a decision," Johnson said. "Not until I'm in shape and competing again."

AP

In this May 15, 2009 file photo, the stars of "Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian," from left, Amy Adams, Hank Azaria and Ben Stiller pose in front of the Smithsonian Castle in Washington.

Turnstiles turn for 'Museum,' 'Terminator'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ben Stiller's "Night at the Museum" sequel and Christian Bale's "Terminator Salvation" are combining for a solid Memorial Day weekend at the box office.

According to estimates from distributor 20th Century Fox, "Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian" took in $53.5 million from Friday to Sunday. That put it well ahead of the first movie, which had a $30.4 million three-day opening in December 2006.

Distributor Warner Bros. said "Terminator Salvation" pulled in $43 million over the same period, plus $13.4 million on opening day Thursday. Its total since debuting was $56.4 million.

The fourth movie in "The Terminator" series came in a bit behind 2003's "Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines," the last of the franchise's installments to star Arnold Schwarzenegger. That third chapter took in $44 million in its first weekend.

Paramount's "Star Trek" held up well with $22 million, coming in at No. 3 and raising its total to $183.5 million. The movie is on the verge of becoming the year's top-grossing movie so far, approaching the $193.1 million gross of DreamWorks Animation's "Monsters vs. Aliens."

The previous weekend's No. 1 movie, Sony's "Angels & Demons," fell to fourth-place with $21.4 million, lifting its domestic haul to $81.5 million. "Star Trek" and "Angels & Demons" were close enough on revenues that their ranks could change once final numbers are reported.

Box-office analyst Paul Dergarabedian of Hollywood.com estimates that the industry's overall take for the first three days of the holiday weekend was running even with last year, when the fourth "Indiana Jones" movie had a $100 million three-day debut.

Failure to meet deadlines is symptom of bigger problem

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I disagree with your response to "Needs Help Finishing Th ... " (Feb. 23), who can't complete her projects now that she has graduated from college. I could have written that letter, except that I graduated from college 30 years ago.

I have always had problems finishing anything that didn't have specific external consequences if it wasn't completed. Now that I'm in graduate school, this trait has become a real problem. I tried every mind game, motivation and organizational technique I could think of, while silently berating myself because no matter what I did, I could not finish writing my papers or complete my research projects.

Eventually, I was sent by student counseling to a psychologist who ran a battery of tests and found that I have the inattentive form (non-hyperactive) of attention deficit disorder (ADD). I am now on medication and making progress.

Not everyone who can't complete tasks has ADD. But for those who do, being told they are "self-indulgent" only adds to the despair and self-recrimination they already feel. "Needs Help" should read up on adult ADD/ADHD to see if some of the characteristics fit and then seek professional help.

50-YEAR-OLD GRAD STUDENT WITH ADD

DEAR GRAD STUDENT: While some readers felt that I was insensitive for telling "Needs Help" to "stop the self-indulgence," others, like you, shared helpful suggestions. Read on:

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Didn't it occur to you that "Needs Help" might just be an idea person? I'm half of a creative team in advertising. I'm a writer, and I work with a designer to come up with cool new ideas for ad campaigns. We start those ideas and then pass them on to more designers, illustrators, developers, etc.

"Needs Help" should know that every negative has a positive. I, too, used to worry that I would never finish anything, but now I realize that I just have a passion for learning new things.

CREATIVE, NOT LAZY IN KALAMAZOO

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Being disorganized and not a self-starter could be signs and/or symptoms of several psychological problems that interfere with personal growth and satisfaction in many areas of life. There could be a deep, underlying reason for that person's lack of motivation in getting on with life after graduation.

Talking to a therapist would get to the core of the problem. There are recognized disorders that prevent people from starting and finishing even the smallest project.

PAULA IN ROCHESTER, N.Y.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: As a college professor, I often see students who thrive under the structure of formal classes have difficulty applying their talents to independent projects. The ability to conceptualize and complete unsupervised projects requires skills that can be learned and strengthened with practice. "Needs Help" recognizes that he or she has not yet learned these skills. A counselor who specializes in cognitive behavioral therapy may be helpful.

PROFESSOR IN SAN FRANCISCO

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: The disorganization of some creative people is often chalked up as a side effect of their creativity because they do not seem to have trouble in school. These students often gravitate toward the arts because the climate is more accommodating of their "difficulties."

Because I was an excellent student who was considered creative, people set aside the fact that I was disastrously messy and disorganized. It wasn't until I was in my late 20s that I was diagnosed with ADD. That diagnosis changed my life and provided immense relief.

BEEN THERE IN HAMILTON, N.J.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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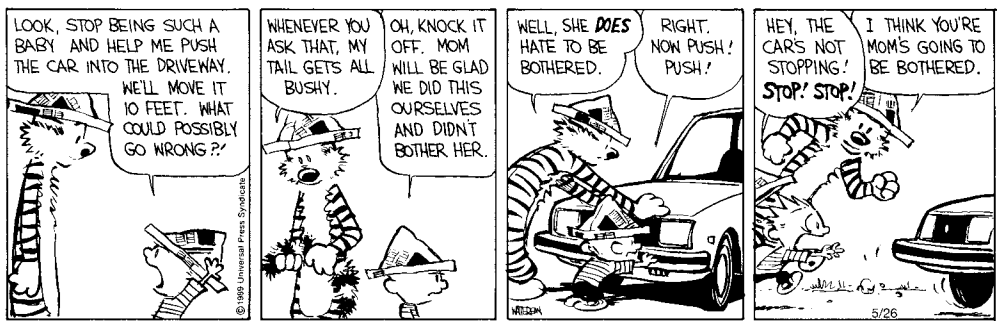
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


LOOK, STOP BEING SUCH A BABY AND HELP ME PUSH THE CAR INTO THE DRIVEWAY.
WE'LL MOVE IT 10 FEET. WHAT COULD POSSIBLY GO WRONG?!
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WHENEVER YOU ASK THAT, MY TAIL GETS ALL BUSHY.
OH, KNOCK IT OFF. MOM WILL BE GLAD WE DID THIS OURSELVES AND DIDN'T BOTHER HER.
WELL, SHE DOES HATE TO BE BOTHERED.
RIGHT. NOW PUSH! PUSH!
HEY, THE CAR'S NOT STOPPING! STOP! STOP!
I THINK YOU'RE MOM'S GOING TO BE BOTHERED.
5/26

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WE HAVE TO CUT YOUR ALLOWANCES.
BUT I EARNED MY CURRENT RATE FAIR AND SQUARE!
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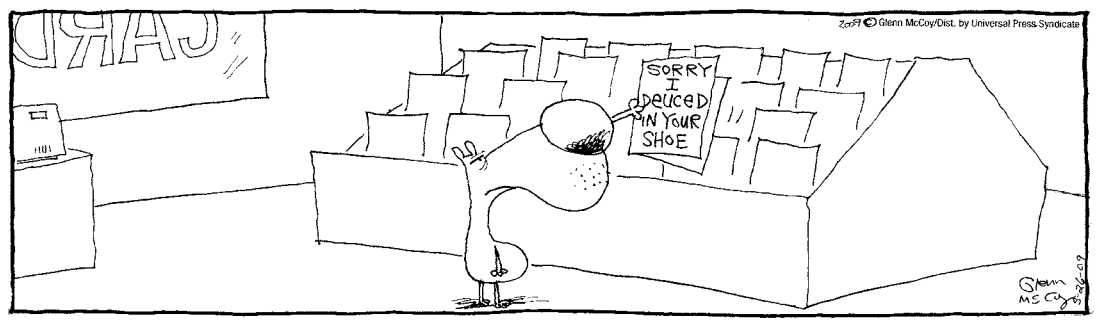
THIS IS A DIFFERENT WORLD. TIMES ARE TOUGH.
WE HAVE TO SPEND OUR WAY OUT OF IT, NOT SAVE!
5-26
I KNOW IT HURTS, SON. I DIDN'T WANT TO DO THIS.
ALL THE LOYALTY I'VE GIVEN THIS FAMILY...
www.gocomics.com
HARRELL
...AND THIS IS HOW YOU REPAY ME?
I COULD CALL THE OHMANS NEXT DOOR AND SEE IF THEY HAVE ANY OPENINGS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Dalmatian's name, maybe
5 Nocturnal bird
8 Squad
12 Saxophone range
13 Actor McBride
14 Gilligan's home
15 Deteriorate
17 New Mexico art colony
18 Big bother
19 Garfield, for one
20 Rhythm partner
21 Pale
22 Chart format
23 Postpone
26 Neckerchief
30 Vicinity
31 Fellow
32 Carolina college
33 Bronx cheer recipients?
35 Robbery
36 Kipling hero
37 Baby blossom
38 Robin Hood portrayer
41 Periodical, briefly
42 "See ya"
45 Libertine
46 Bicycle type
48 Competent
49 Possessed
50 Pealed
51 Prepared to drive
52 Type units
53 Yorkshire river

DOWN
1 Long story
2 Trudge
3 Director Preminger
4 Excessively
5 Neptune's realm
6 Sharpen
7 Cover
8 "Monopoly" card
9 Birthright barterer
10 Lotion additive
11 Disarray
16 Cicatrix
20 Storage container
21 Lacking willpower
22 Salary
23 Rotation duration
24 Historic time
25 Morass
26 Kramden's wheels
27 Foreman foe
28 Ph. bk. data
29 Pismire
31 Jewel
34 "Ich bin — Berliner"
35 Embraces
37 Music groups
38 "Animal House" group
39 Earring site
40 Christmas
41 Intend
42 Suitor
43 Longings
44 Advantage
46 Commonest English word
47 Expert

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	M	O			E	B	B		H	A	T	E
L	O	N	G		G	E	L		A	B	E	L
B	O	E	R		G	E	E		N	E	C	K
A	T	S	E	A	■	R	E	T	D	■	■	■
■	■	■	A	D	O	■	P	H	O	T	O	S
C	H	A	S	S	I	S	■	E	V	O	K	E
H	O	N	E	■	L	A	W	■	E	R	I	E
A	B	O	M	B	■	D	E	G	R	E	E	S
P	O	N	Y	U	P	■	D	E	F	■	■	■
■	■	■	P	S	S	T	■	M	I	C	R	O
F	L	E	A	■	A	I	M	■	S	H	A	M
C	E	L	L	■	L	E	I	■	T	I	K	I
C	A	L	M	■	M	R	S	■	■	P	E	T

Yesterday's answer 5-26

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				16				■	17			
18			■	19			■	20				
■	■	■	21			■	22			■	■	■
23	24	25			■	26				27	28	29
30				■	31			■	32			
33				34			■	35				
■	■	■	36			■	37			■	■	■
38	39	40			■	41			■	42	43	44
45				■	46				47			
48					49			■	50			
51				■	52			■	53			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lenny Kravitz, 45; Sally Ride, 58; Philip Michael Thomas, 60; Hank Williams Jr., 60

Happy Birthday: Keep your emotions in check. Sound judgment will be required in order to take advantage of the opportunities within your reach. Focus on your love life, your personal image and your life philosophy. Fight for your beliefs and don't lose sight of your goals. Your numbers are 6, 14, 18, 25, 38, 40, 47

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't ignore personal matters or they will come back at the most inopportune time. Your ability to work fast and please everyone will keep you in the game. Use discernment, not force. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Taking a closer look at what you have to work with and how you can best execute your potential will enable you to come out on top. Travel should be in the mix. Deal with people face-to-face and you can seal any deal. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Consider what you can do to spice things up. A short trip to a place you've never been will help you come up with some interesting ideas while taking your mind off your worries. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You'll be emotional so don't even think about picking a fight or getting involved in a heavy discussion. Get back to working on a project that requires your undivided attention and you won't lose ground or end up having to make amends. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Someone may be keeping something from you. Ask direct questions. A money problem will arise if you have been too generous with others. It may be time to lay down the law by putting a strict budget in place. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You have to hit hard if you want something to work in your favor. You can't sit back or wait for someone else to take over. Being responsible will also give the people around you confidence in what you are trying to accomplish. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): What you want will not be what you get if you play an emotional game with someone who has just as much control as you do. Back off, be light-hearted and compromise and you will spare yourself a lot of grief. Treat the ones you love fairly. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Networking and joining forces with other creative thinkers will help you get ahead. Don't listen to someone else's fears when you know in your heart that you can do something and prosper. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You may want to make some improvements to your surroundings but now is not the time. Someone will take advantage of you if you haven't done your homework. Know what you are talking about before you get involved in something that could cost you. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You'll be in an emotional merry-go-round. If something doesn't seem right, it probably isn't. Focus on your assets and protect them from anyone who may be trying to take something from you. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Give whatever you are trying to accomplish your all. You will get the support you need and the love you deserve from the people you care about most. Enjoy the moment, have some fun and, before you know it, you will take another great leap forward. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Be careful how you express yourself. Someone will misinterpret what you mean, putting you in an emotionally challenging position. A sudden change in your personal life can be expected but think of it as just another step to the freedom you need to follow your dreams. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are steadfast, loyal and a great team player. You are an imaginative storyteller and strive to be unique. You see all sides of any situation you face.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

		5		9		7	2	
3	6					1		8
		2			6			
		7			4	9		
		3		7		5		
		8	5			2		
			2			4		
7		4					9	1
	9	1		6		8		

Difficulty Level ★★ 5/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	7	4	5	9	3	8	6	2
9	8	2	1	7	6	3	4	5
3	5	6	8	2	4	9	1	7
8	6	5	7	4	1	2	9	3
4	3	9	6	5	2	7	8	1
7	2	1	9	3	8	4	5	6
5	1	7	3	8	9	6	2	4
6	4	8	2	1	7	5	3	9
2	9	3	4	6	5	1	7	8

Difficulty Level ★ 5/25

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HIP HOP MUSIC **Solution: 7 letters**

T	S	K	C	A	R	T	K	R	O	Y	W	E	N	M
G	U	V	E	R	S	E	S	A	R	S	L	O	U	R
S	R	B	R	O	N	X	C	T	R	B	T	S	L	O
O	(D)	O	E	B	A	O	E	N	A	T	I	A	P	F
R	(U)	N	U	D	F	O	O	T	E	C	I	M	G	R
T	(E)	R	A	P	P	I	N	G	I	U	E	S	H	E
C	(T)	A	E	B	U	R	B	A	N	T	Q	Y	T	P
E	R	U	T	L	U	C	N	D	N	I	T	E	U	L
L	L	U	G	T	X	I	M	E	R	H	X	L	S	A
E	A	N	O	M	U	B	L	A	M	O	S	I	S	T
O	I	D	U	T	S	A	O	I	I	A	C	T	M	I
S	C	C	R	I	T	I	C	D	T	L	Y	E	U	N
S	O	N	G	E	D	M	U	I	U	L	B	O	R	U
A	S	P	L	A	Y	A	O	B	E	C	N	A	D	M
B	X	L	R	S	Y	N	T	H	E	S	I	Z	E	R

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Album, Artist, Audio, Bands, Bass, Beat, Bronx, Club, Critic, Culture, Dance, Debut, Drums, Duet, Electro, Fans, Flow, Group, Mixing, Musician, New York, Perform, Platinum, Play, Poetry, Pulsation, Radio, Rapping, Record, Remix, Rhythmic, Sequencer, Sing, Social, Song, Stage, Studio, Style, Synthesizer, Talent, Tell, Tempo, Tour, Tracks, Turntable, Urban, Verses

Yesterday's Answer: Civilization

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WHATZIT Solution: Handshake

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Announcement of closure. Doko (Saipan) Inc- P.O. Box 501847, Saipan, MP 96950 has closed its local office. Any outstanding unpaid charges should be sent to above address by 06/01/09.

FREE, FREE, FREE, FREE!
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We are looking for all kinds of properties, vacant property, commercial building, house, or apartment for long term lease or for sale. Interested owners, you may visit Yuta Office beside Bank of Guam in San Antonio.

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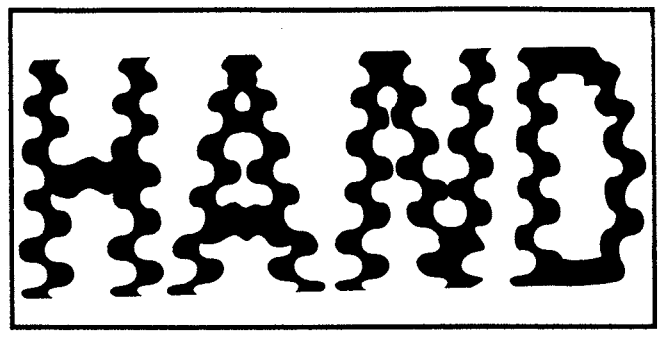
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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CLASSIFIED ADS

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• 5-Liner	**$35**
• 3-Liner with picture	**$45**
• 5-Liner with picture	**$55**

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Howard's 24 lead Magic past Cavs for 2-1 lead

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—LeBron James had no shot. Dwight Howard scored 24 points—14 on free throws—and Rafer Alston added 18 as the Orlando Magic, sick of seeing replays of James' dramatic Game 2 buzzer-beater, downed the Cleveland Cavaliers 99-89 on Sunday night to take a 2-1 lead in an Eastern Conference finals getting nastier by the minute.

James scored 41 on just 11-of-28 shooting and missed five free throws in the fourth quarter. But once again, Cleveland's superstar didn't get enough help from his teammates. Mo Williams, who needed four stitches to close two gashes around his left eye after being elbowed in the first half, Delonte West and Zydrunas Ilgauskas shot a combined 13-of-37.

Game 4 is Tuesday night.

The first two games of the series in Cleveland were each decided by one point. This one was resolved by elbows, shoves and hard fouls.

Howard, Ilgauskas and Cleveland's Anderson Varejao all fouled out as the officials called 58 personals, handed out two technicals, a flagrant and spent half the night stepping between players on both sides as tempers flared inside an overheated Amway Arena.

"We just kept fighting. That's what we got to do, we fight to the end," Howard said. "We can't worry about nothing, we can't worry about the calls, can't worry about nobody else. We just got to get out there and play."

When the referees weren't making peace, they were sending players to the free-throw line.

Unlike Games 1 and 2, the Magic didn't fall behind by double digits and need to rally. They got out fast, stayed close despite Howard's early foul trouble and put the Cavs away at the line.

Howard, a notoriously poor foul shooter, went 14-of-19 from the line and the Magic made 39 of 51 attempts. In the fourth quarter alone, Orlando made 19 of 23 to hold off the top-seeded Cavaliers, who began the playoffs with eight straight wins and have now dropped two of their last three.

Cleveland better figure out a way to win in steamy Florida fast. The Cavs, who were thumped here by 29 on April 3, have lost six of their last seven in Orlando.

The Magic seem to have a spell over the Cavs.

Despite his lack of help, James kept Cleveland within striking distance in the fourth and scored on a three-point play while getting Howard's fifth foul with 2:34 to play to pull the Cavs to 90-86.

Howard, wrapped up underneath, then made two free throws before James was fouled and rimmed out two at the other end. On Orlando's next trip, Mickael Pietrus, who came off the bench to score 16, grabbed a long rebound, got fouled and was pushed in the back by West, who was handed a T.

Pietrus made his free throws to make it 94-86 and the Magic appeared to have things under control when Howard caught James from behind and blocked his 3-pointer. The refs saw it otherwise and called a three-shot foul on Superman, who couldn't believe it.

James made all three shots, but the Cavs were short on time. Rashard Lewis' free throw made it 95-89 and after another Cleveland miss, Hedo Turkoglu was fouled and made two more to finish the job. Turkoglu was just 1-of-11 from the floor but made 11 free throws and added 10 rebounds and seven assists.

After sitting the final seven minutes of the first half with three fouls, Howard made it through 9:10 of the third quarter before getting No. 4—and technical No. 5 of the postseason.

He was called for pushing Ben Wallace underneath, and upset with the whistle, he said something on his way to the bench that referee Joey Crawford didn't like and was T'd up. Orlando coach Stan Van Gundy had warned his star to keep his composure because the league automatically suspends a player for one game after he receives his seventh technical foul in the playoffs.

"I didn't say anything to Joey Crawford," Howard said. "The response was to the other team. I didn't say anything to Joey Crawford. I'm not stupid enough to get in his face and say anything, so I try to keep it to the other team."

The Magic led 29-23 when Howard picked up his third personal foul with 7:27 remaining in the first half when he bumped James ever so slightly on a drive.

Less than two minutes later, Orlando was behind by five.

During the stretch, Orlando's Anthony Johnson rocked Williams with a left elbow to the face that dropped Cleveland's point guard, who laid face down on the floor for several seconds. When he got up, Williams, who was called for a block, was bleeding from his eyebrow and left cheek.

During the timeout, the officiating crew huddled and decided to call a flagrant-1 on Johnson. Williams, who had hurried from the floor for medical treatment, came back out to shoot the free throws with his eye already severely swollen. If he had not returned to shoot, Williams would not have been able to play anymore.

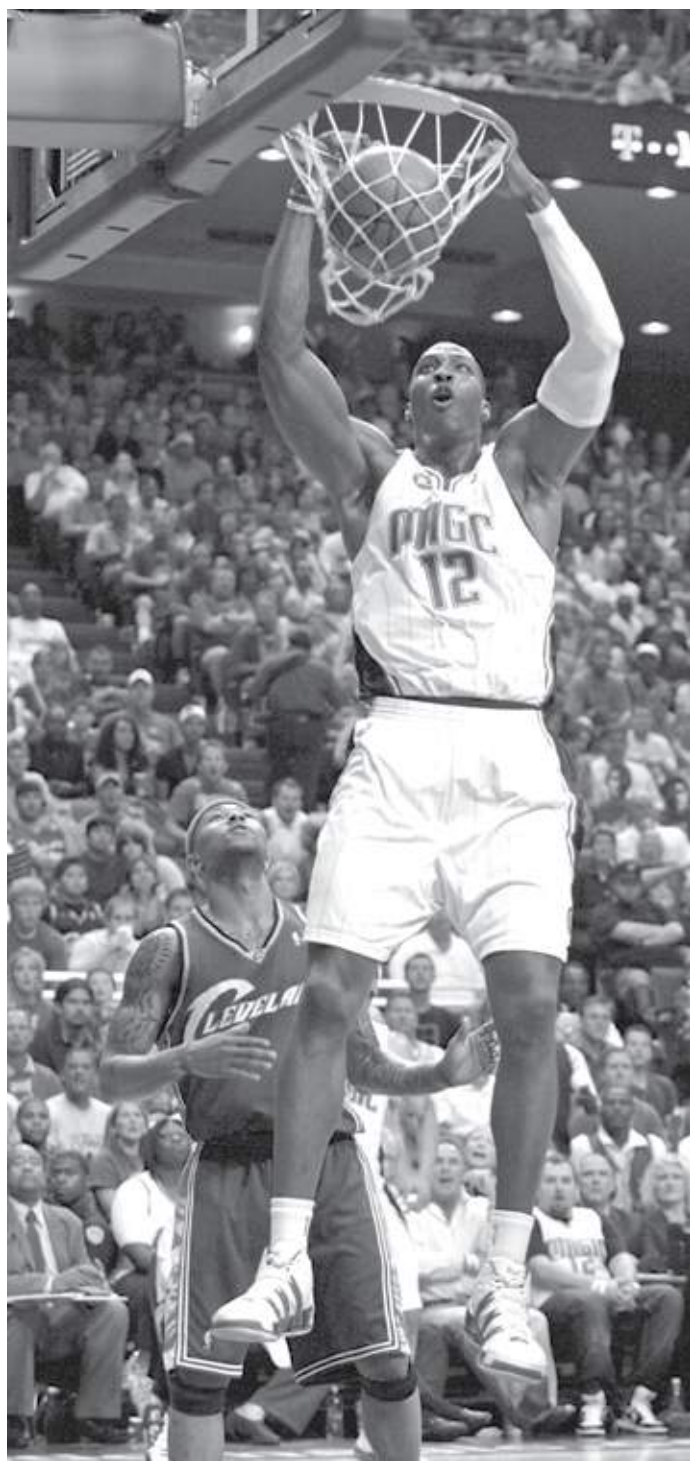
Gritting his teeth, Williams, looking like a boxer needing a corner cut man, made both shots and immediately headed to the locker room for stitches.

He was back on the floor with about two minutes left.

Before the game, James said he expected a physical game.

"When you play a team over and over you start to dislike them more," he said. "It just happens. It's got to be a little chippy."

Was it ever.



Orlando Magic center Dwight Howard (12) throws down a dunk in front of Cleveland Cavaliers guard Mo Williams in the second half of Game 3 of the NBA Eastern Conference basketball finals in Orlando, Fla., Sunday, May 24, 2009.

AP

Hewitt overcomes 55 aces; Murray, Ivanovic win

PARIS (AP)—Lleyton Hewitt lunged and whiffed at some serves, his racket hitting only air. He simply stood and watched other balls whirr past.

Over and over and over again Sunday, Hewitt's opponent in the French Open's first round, the 6-foot-10 Ivo Karlovic, smacked aces from on high, finishing with a tournament-record 55. Those easy points helped Karlovic take the first two sets—and made Hewitt think back to the day in 2003 when he was the defending champion at Wimbledon and lost his opening match to the tallest player in tour history.

"The angle he gets, you can't touch a lot of his serves," Hewitt said. "It's physically impossible."

This time, as the 26th-seeded Karlovic tired in heat that topped 80 degrees, Hewitt grew more and more comfortable, and the two-time major champion's bothersome hip looked fine while he climbed all the way back for a 6-7 (1), 6-7 (4), 7-6 (4), 6-4, 6-3 victory.

How could a player who compiles 55 aces possibly lose?

"Don't know," was Hewitt's simple reply.

Karlovic was similarly befuddled, saying: "It is difficult to explain."

Theirs amounted to the most riveting match of Day 1 at the only Grand Slam tournament that starts on a Sunday. Otherwise, there were straight-set wins for defending champion Ana Ivanovic, Andy Murray and Marat Safin—who is appearing in his final French Open, but please be sure not to ask him about that—and straight-set exits for 2004 champion Gaston Gaudio and two-time major winner Amelie Mauresmo.

No. 16 Mauresmo and No. 19 Kaia Kanepi were the seeded women who lost, while Karlovic was the only seeded man who departed. No. 9 Victoria Azarenka and No. 11 Nadia Petrova—who beat Lauren Embree of Marco Island, Fla.—won, as did No. 7 Gilles Simon, No. 8 Fernando Verdasco, No. 13 Marin Cilic and No. 14 David Ferrer.

Safin is seeded 20th, and his talent and temperament long have conspired to make him as capable of reaching the semifinals at Roland Garros, something he did in 2002, as he is of falling in the first round, something he did in 2006.

He reached the second round this year by defeating Alexandre Sidorenko of France 6-4, 6-4, 6-4. When the 29-year-old brother of the tournament's top-seeded woman, Dinara Safina, walked off the court, he was asked by a French TV interviewer whether this is his last appearance at Roland Garros. Safin replied: "I'm tired of talking about this."

Pressed, he said: "Well, yeah, I decided, I think, to stop. I had my 12 years of my career. It was a great experience, but it's time to move on."

Like Safin, Hewitt has been ranked No. 1 and has won a U.S. Open title. Hewitt, who is a year younger, has given no indication he plans to walk away from the sport anytime soon.

He certainly never quit for a moment against Karlovic, even if the situation seemed grim. Hewitt had lost all three previous career matches against Karlovic, and faced that daunting two-set deficit Sunday. Then there were all of those aces: By the end of the third set, Karlovic already had 41—enough to top the previous French Open record of 37, set by Andy Roddick in 2001.

The final tally of 55 is the most in a tour-level match since the ATP began keeping ace records in 1991, bettering the mark of 51 shared by Karlovic and Joachim Johansson. And, according to the book The Bud Collins History of Tennis, it's the second-most in history, behind only the 59 hit by Ed Kauder at the 1955 U.S. Championships.

Karlovic doesn't try to keep track of his aces during matches, and he only rarely consults stat sheets, so he wasn't aware of the significance of Sunday's performance.

"Oh, yeah? How many aces? 55? All right, at least a record. At least that," he said. "It is good. Obviously, even on the clay, I can serve unbelievable."

True enough. Hewitt is known as one of the game's top returners, and he called the matchup "sort of his strength against mine."

In the end, though, what really mattered was Hewitt's mental strength, while Karlovic wilted under the searing sun.

"It was like I had no energy," Karlovic said. "I could not run."

The temperature was cooler, and the light fading, by the time France's Mauresmo delivered her latest disappointing performance at home, a 6-4, 6-3 loss against Anna-Lena Groenefeld in the evening's final match.

"We couldn't see," Mauresmo said.

Hours earlier, Ivanovic got the tournament started on Court Philippe Chatrier, and she looked a bit shaky at the site of her only Grand Slam title.

With pieces of black tape on her troublesome right knee, she wasted 15 break points, fell behind 5-4 in the first set, and only for about a four-game stretch really asserted herself in a 7-6 (3), 6-3 struggle against 44th-ranked Sara Errani of Italy.

Errani, for one, was not impressed.

"Is she going to win the tournament?" Errani said. "Don't think so."

Spokesman: Jeremy Shockey taken to hospital, doing fine

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A New Orleans Saints team spokesman says tight end Jeremy Shockey was taken to a hospital but is doing fine after being treated for dehydration.

Greg Bensel confirmed Sunday that the team was aware that Shockey was released from the hospital but did not release many details.

Celebrity gossip site TMZ.com first reported that paramedics wheeled Shockey out on a stretcher from a pool party at the Hard Rock Hotel in Las Vegas after he was found unconscious Sunday afternoon.

Shockey has been in the Pro Bowl four times, most recently in 2006. Before playing for the Saints, Shockey was with the New York Giants. In eight seasons, Shockey has 421 receptions for 4,711 yards and 27 touchdowns.

Sabbatini wins Byron Nelson by 2 strokes

IRVING, Texas (AP)—Rory Sabbatini knelt down on the 18th green as his two young children charged to congratulate him with hugs and kisses.

"The beauty about it is just seeing the innocent joy in their eyes," Sabbatini said after his victory Sunday in the Byron Nelson Championship.

Wearing a pink shirt in a show of support for Amy Mickelson, recently diagnosed with breast cancer, and heavy hearted because of the rapidly deteriorating health of a buddy with Hodgkin's lymphoma, Sabbatini shot a 6-under 64 for a two-stroke victory over late-charging Brian Davis in Lord Byron's tournament.

"Obviously this tournament is very special," Sabbatini said. "It's one that I wish I had have been able to win it and look up and see Byron sitting there at the 18th green. ... What a wonderful name to be associated with now."

After an 8-foot putt at No. 17 for his third straight birdie, Sabbatini got to enjoy the champion's walk up No. 18. And it didn't matter that his 7-foot par putt slid past and he had to tap in for bogey.

Once the final putt dropped, Sabbatini's 5-year-old son and 3-year old daughter—with "Team Sabo" inscribed on their clothing—ran out to greet him. He then embraced wife Amy and Peggy Nelson, the widow of Byron Nelson.

Sabbatini, the 33-year-old South African who lives in nearby Fort Worth, finished at 19-under 261 at TPC Four Seasons Resort Las Colinas to break the tournament mark of 18 under set by Loren Roberts and playoff loser Steve Pate in 1999—when the Cottonwood Valley course also was used the first two days.

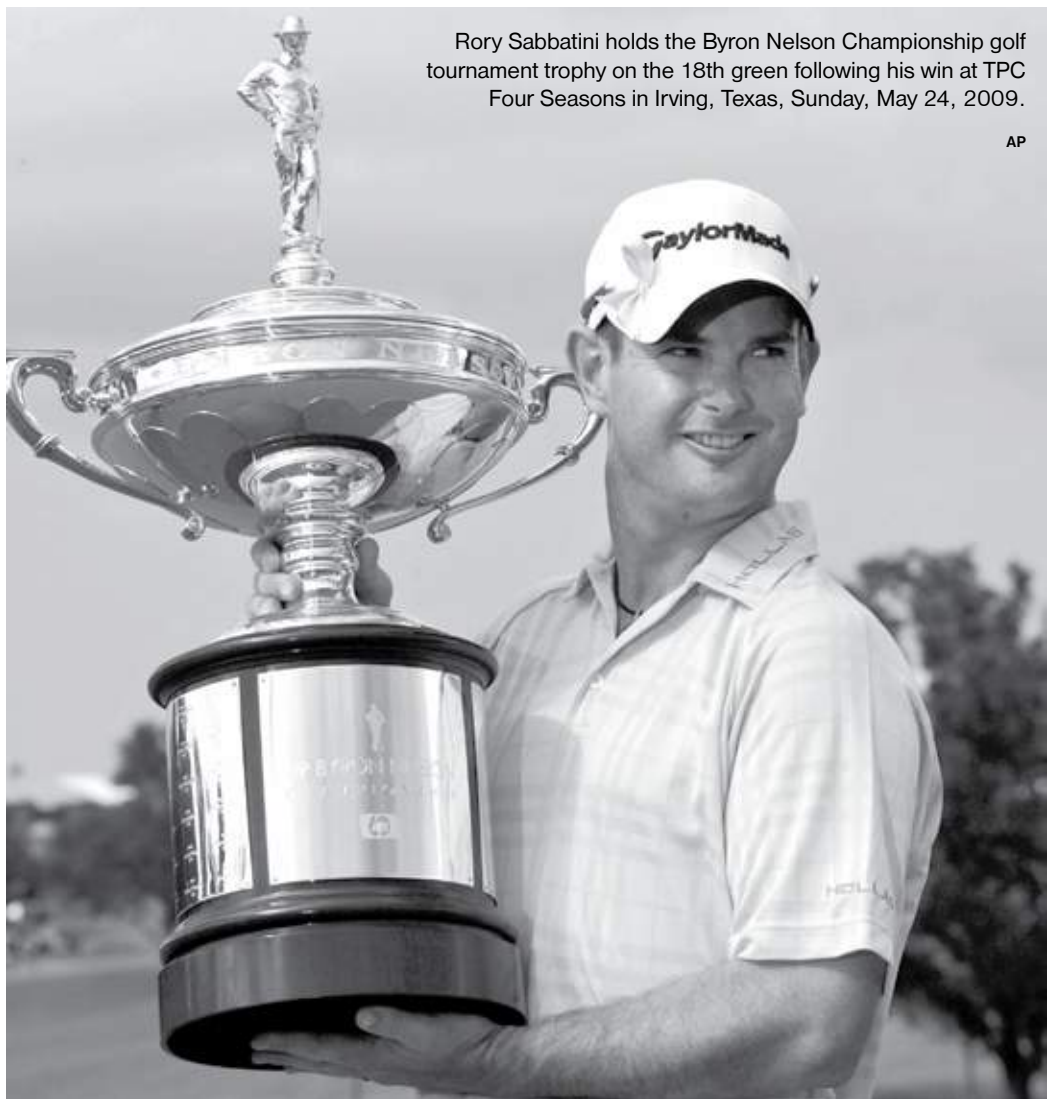
Sabbatini earned $1.17 million for his fifth PGA Tour victory.

Davis shot a bogey-free 64 to finish second for the third time in his career, though he's still looking for his first victory. It was the 34-year-old Englishman's third consecutive top-five finish, including The Players Championship.

"I'm disappointed I didn't win. But all you can do is put yourself in position," Davis said. "I played great, stuck in there, and I'm ecstatic with that."

It was the first win for Sabbatini since 2007 at Colonial, and he will return to Hogan's Alley next week as that tournament's most recent champion. Phil Mickelson withdrew from the Nelson and Colonial, suspending his playing schedule indefinitely after his wife Amy's diagnosis.

Along with his pink shirt, Sabbatini also had a pink ribbon attached to his cap, like most of the players and caddies, as a show of support for the Mickelson family.



Rory Sabbatini holds the Byron Nelson Championship golf tournament trophy on the 18th green following his win at TPC Four Seasons in Irving, Texas, Sunday, May 24, 2009. AP

Sabbatini went from smiling to tears welling up in his eyes later when he talked about the Mickelsons and his friend battling cancer who he saw at the Masters last month.

"This is a guy that's 6-foot-2, 205 pounds, and showed up at Augusta, and he looks about 85 years old and pretty much just skin and bones," Sabbatini said. "It really puts everything we do out here into perspective."

D.A. Points (65) was 16 under for his career-best finish of third. Scott McCarron (62) and Dustin Johnson (66) tied for fourth at 15 under.

Davis made a 26-foot eagle putt at the 546-yard No. 16 to get to 17 under. Sabbatini, coming off a birdie, was standing on the 16th tee box at the time, and could only shake his head when his lead suddenly shrunk from three to one.

But Sabbatini responded with a tap-in birdie on the same hole, after his 21-foot eagle try slid just past and sent him crouching in disbelief when it didn't go in the hole.

Davis opened with six consecutive pars before four birdies in a five-hole stretch. Then came the eagle at No. 16, though he had to make a 13-footer to save par at the 198-yard 17th when his tee shot landed 56 feet from the pin and his first putt caught up on a ridge.

Sabbatini hit his approach at the 431-yard No. 4 hole to 3 feet, and made the same length birdie putt on the par 3 that followed. After a bogey at No. 6, where he missed the fairway with his tee shot, he got that stroke back with a 7-foot birdie putt at the 542-yard seventh.

"I knew I just needed to get off to a good start and just let the round develop," Sabbatini said. "I was absolutely ecstatic to get things rolling."

McCarron, who hasn't won on the PGA Tour since 2001, had birdies on the final three holes to match the lowest closing round ever at the Nelson. That was one stroke off the TPC Four Seasons record.

John Mallinger entered the final round tied with Sabbatini for the lead, but shot a 70 to finish sixth at 13 under.

Red Sox rally for 12-5 win over Mets

BOSTON (AP)—Kevin Youkilis hit a three-run homer two innings after his long foul ball was upheld by a replay review, Mike Lowell also had a three-run shot and the Boston Red Sox avoided being swept at home for the first time this season by beating the New York Mets 12-5 on Sunday.

J.D. Drew went 4-for-5 and Nick Green had a tiebreaking two-run single as the Red Sox rebounded from a rough loss Saturday night when Omir Santos' replay-reversed homer against closer Jonathan Papelbon gave the Mets a 3-2 win.

Rangers 5, Astros 0

At Houston, Brandon McCarthy scattered nine hits in his first career complete game and the Rangers completed a three-game sweep.

Josh Hamilton, Ian Kinsler and Jarrod Saltalamacchia homered as the AL West leaders moved nine games above .500 and extended the Astros' losing streak to four.

Phillies 4, Yankees 3, 11 innings

At New York, Carlos Ruiz hit a two-out RBI double in the 11th inning and Philadelphia overcame another blown save by Brad Lidge.

Jimmy Rollins, Shane Victorino and Raul Ibanez(each drove in a run for Philadelphia, and Ruiz neatly blocked the plate to stop Johnny Damon from scoring early.

Nationals 8, Orioles 5

At Washington, Adam Dunn hit two home runs, including a go-ahead grand slam in the seventh inning, for a career-high six RBIs and the Nationals rallied for a victory.

With Washington trailing 5-4, pinch-hitter Anderson Hernandez led off the seventh with a single against Chris Ray (0-1). Willie Harris singled, Cristian Guzman sacrificed and Ryan Zimmerman was intentionally walked to load the bases.

Marlins 5, Rays 4, 11 innings

At Miami, Ross Gload drove in the winning run with a one-out, bases-loaded single in the 11th inning against Lance Cormier (0-1), and the Marlins snapped a four-game losing streak.

The Marlins had lost eight in a row at home to the Rays, and were outscored 25-5 in the first two games of the series.

Rockies 3, Tigers 1

At Detroit, Todd Helton drove in two runs, Jason Hammel pitched into the seventh inning for his first win this season and Colorado beat Dontrelle Willis and the Tigers.

Hammel (1-3) was making his sixth start since joining the rotation in late April. He allowed one run on six hits and three walks in six-plus innings.

Three relievers finished the Rockies' interleague series win, with Huston Street pitching the ninth for his seventh save in as many tries.

Reds 4, Indians 3, 11 innings

At Cincinnati, Alex Gonzalez doubled home the winning run with one out in the 11th inning and the Reds won the all-Ohio series.

The Reds took two of three. Carlos Fisher (1-0), Cincinnati's fifth pitcher, pitched a scoreless 11th to get the win in his major league debut.

Pirates 4, White Sox 3

At Chicago, Jack Wilson hit a tying homer off Bobby Jenks with two outs in the ninth inning, then Delwyn Young got the go-ahead RBI single as Pittsburgh finally scored against the White Sox.

Shut out in the series' first two games and frustrated for most of Sunday, the Pirates rallied against an unlikely victim. Jenks, an All-Star closer, entered the game with a 0.00 ERA in save situations and 10 saves in as many opportunities.

Royals 3, Cardinals 2

At St, Louis, Brian Bannister worked six strong innings and drove in a run and pinch-hitter Mike Jacobs' RBI single snapped a seventh-inning tie, helping the Royals avoid a three-game sweep in the I-70 interleague series.

The Royals ended a 24-inning scoreless drought and finally got to St. Louis pitching, which shut them out 5-0 each of the first two games.

Braves 10, Blue Jays 2

At Atlanta, Brian McCann homered twice, pinch-hitter Chipper Jones drove in the go-ahead run with a bases-loaded single in the seventh inning and the Braves beat Toronto to cap a three-game sweep.

The sweep was the Braves' first in eight series with Toronto.

The Blue Jays' six-game losing streak is their longest since dropping seven straight last June.

Mariners 5, Giants 4

At Seattle, Adrian Beltre and Ken Griffey Jr. homered, leading Felix Hernandez and the Mariners.

Beltre hit a three-run homer in the fifth off Barry Zito (1-5) to give the Mariners a 5-3 lead. Franklin Gutierrez walked and Ichiro Suzuki singled before Beltre's second home run of the year.

Athletics 6, Diamondbacks 2

At Oakland, Calif., Jason Giambi homered a day after reaching the 400 milestone and Landon Powell hit a tiebreaking shot for his first career home run as the Athletics avoided a sweep.

Giambi, who on Saturday night became the 44th player in major league history with 400 homers, provided an insurance run with his seventh-inning solo drive.

Angels 10, Dodgers 7

At Los Angeles, Torii Hunter drove in three runs after a frightening collision with the center-field fence, and the Angels won the rubber game of the Freeway Series.

Rookie Jason Bulger (2-1) earned the victory, retiring all four batters he faced after relieving starter Matt Palmer(notes) with two outs in the fifth inning.

Twins 6, Brewers 3

At Minneapolis, Justin Morneau hit a grand slam, Scott Baker pitched into the ninth inning, and the Minnesota Twins completed a three-game sweep of the Milwaukee Brewers.

Joe Mauer and Joe Crede also homered for Minnesota, which has scored 43 runs in its last four games. Baker (2-5) allowed seven hits and struck out six in 8 1-3 innings for his first win in three starts since May 8.

Padres 7, Cubs 2

At San Diego, Kevin Kouzmanoff homered and had four RBIs, capping the Padres' first 9-0 homestand.

San Diego's nine-game winning streak is the longest in the NL this season. Even so, it merely pulled the Padres back to .500.

Mode Tour to host golf tourney

Mode Tour will be hosting a golf tournament this coming Saturday, May 30, at the west course of Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Dubbed the Inaugural Friendly Golf Tournament, the competition will start at 8am following a 7:30am registration.

Cost to enter is $60, which will include green fee and awards banquet at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan. The tournament will adopt a peoria format and will have a shotgun start.

First place will receive a Saipan-Guam roundtrip ticket for two courtesy of Freedom Air, while the runner-up wins a two-night stay with breakfast at the PIC Saipan. Third place is a Saipan-Rota roundtrip ticket for two.

Three hole-in-one challenges are also in store for the island's golf enthusiasts. A successful try in hole No. 3 nets a $500 gift certificate from DFS Galleria Saipan. The winner in hole No. 17 gets a $500 dinner coupon at Monte Vista Restaurant, while a hole-in-one in No. 7 gets the lucky participant a two-night stay at Rota Resort, which includes a trip around the island's scenic spots.

Prizes are also in store for the closest to the pin and longest drives. A bevy of in-kind gifts also await participants in the raffle during the award banquet.

All participants of the one-day golf event, which Mode Tour is hosting to thank the local community's support, will also take home souvenir Nike golf balls, T-shirts, and ball markers.

Aside from Mode Tour and PIC Saipan, the Inaugural Friendly Golf Tournament is also made possible with support from the Marianas Visitors Authority and Asiana Airlines.

For more information, call 234-7288 for Korean-speaking participants, while English-speaking participants can call 235-4488. ***(Mark Rabago)***

WALK-OFF

From Page 28

in the semifinals, 5-4, last Sunday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield, while Fielders stunned pennant champions Hustlers, 3-2. The Hustlers downed Ol'Aces last Saturday, 11-6, to take the pennant.

The title match in the Big League division went down-to-the-wire, as both teams seemed tired from playing consecutive games.

The Fielders scored one run apiece in the first four innings before the Falcons' defense shut them out in the last three. The Fielders had a good chance to end their drought at the top of the last inning, as their bases were loaded with Lawrence Sablan at bat. Sablan hit his target, but second baseman Buddy Igitol caught the fly ball.

Juan Tenorio led off for the Falcons, who had two runs in the second and one each in the third, fifth, and sixth, at the bottom of the last inning and was beaten to first. Camacho was then hit by pitch and later advanced to second and third on Fielders' errors. Aldan walked and moved to second on another Fielders' miscue.

With one of the top batting leaders in the Big League at the plate, Falcons manager Doru Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* in a brief interview that he was confident Cabrera can make the winning hit. After a low pitch, Cabrera blasted a single with the ball dropping to the leftfield, almost going over the fence, and sealed the championship for the Falcons.

Over at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield, Secharmidal duplicated Cabrera's feat to lead the Happy Market-sponsored Ol'Aces to a similar 6-5 victory against the San Antonio Dragon in extra inning.

With the game tied at 5-all and with one out and first baseman Mike Muna at third base, Secharmidal let go of two high balls before making the game-winning single with the ball landing near second base.

The game ended at 3-all after relief pitcher Alden Ngeskebei struck out Ol'Aces' last two batters at the bottom of the sixth inning.

The Dragons took the lead at the top of the seventh, 5-3, with Jonathan Villagomez and Ngeskebei reaching home plate on Ol'Aces errors. Ol'Aces also scored two runs on Dragons' miscues to tie the game, anew, before Secharmidal and Muna teamed up for the game-winning run.

WILLIAMS

From Page 28

Jerry Tan, as she also prevailed in the women's team division and All Events and finished third in the women's singles.

In the men's May Masters division, Talavera bested 20 other participants after scoring 2,656 pinfalls. He averaged 221.33 in 12 games to beat Raul Dumapit (214.25), Simon Manacop (203.92), Jon Eparwa (202.75), Rusty Musca (202.67), and Raphael Zapanta (202). The Top 6 finishers received cash prizes.

In the men's team event, the quartet of Alex Castro, Tony Verdaguer, Paul Pangelinan, and Manacop tallied a total of 2,381 pinfalls to beat two other teams. Richard Leong, Kitz Barja, Ador Dimaano, and Manacop finished second with 2,235 pinfalls, while the team of Jon Hensley, Percy Omechelang, Robert Talavera, and Castro placed third with 2,231 pinfalls.

Williams joined forces with Carrie Camacho, Gloria Omechelang, and Diane Camacho to top the women's team event and beat the quartets of Elena Soll, Villavicencio, Regis and Cindy Taitano and Sue Ellis, Rita Palacios, Carol McKenzie, and Lucy Guerrero.

In the doubles event, the pairs of Verdaguer and Eparwa and Gigi Zapanta and Cal triumphed in the men's and women's divisions, respectively.

Verdaguer and Eparwa combined for 1,270 pinfalls to down the duos of Dumapit and Dannie Robles (1,252) and Dimaano and Robert Talavera (1,238)

In the women's doubles, Gigi Zapanta and Cal recorded 1,116 to prevail over the tandems of Palacios and Williams (1,040), and Diane Camacho and Williams (997).

Dumapit redeemed himself in the men's singles event, nailing 663 pinfalls to outclass Verdaguer (638) and Talavera (626).

Gloria Omechelang was the top finisher in the women's singles with her 587 pinfall, besting Villavicencio's 527 and Williams' 522.

Verdaguer claimed his second trophy after placing first in the All Events with her 1,863 pinfalls. He defeated Dimaano (1,824), and Dumapit (1,784). In the women's division, Williams posted 1,620 pinfalls to beat Omechelang (1,615) Cal (1,611).

16 CLINCH

From Page 28

bid for a first boys' 18-and-under title after the former won in the finals in straight sets. Chang prevailed in the first set, 6-4, and had a tougher time in the second set before pulling off a 7-5 victory.

Minor also met a stiff challenge from Lila Mailman in the first set of their title game in the girls' 18-and-under division before the former eked out a 7-6 triumph. The second set was an easier task for Minor, who cruised to a 6-1 victory to stun her top seeded foe.

Miller regained the boys' 13-and-under title he lost to Rafael Jones last year after beating Jake Lee in the finals, 6-2, 7-6.

The girls' 14-and-under division had a new champion in 10-year-old Ratsguiy, who topped Mikayla Lopez in three sets. Rastguiy, who beat deposed champion Ilia Corella in the semis, 6-3, 6-4, took the opening set in the finals, 6-2, but lost the second set in a similar score. The newly crowned champion finally took the championship after a 6-1 victory in the deciding third set.

In the boys' 10-and-under division, Dela Cruz added the DFS trophy to his growing collection after beating Colin Ramsey in the finals, 6-4. Prior to the DFS tournament, Dela Cruz won the past two junior tournaments NMITA hosted.

Emily Jones dethroned Tammy Ackerman after nailing a 6-4 victory in the finals of the girls' 10-and-under division.

Besides the junior singles competitions, NMITA also had adults doubles contests in the first weekend of the DFS tournament.

In the men's open doubles finals, Jeff Race and Ji Hoon Heo outlasted Peter Loyola and Kirk Schuler in three sets, 6-4, 5-7, 6-4.

Miller and Jones played in the men's 3.0 doubles and won in the finals against the duo of Tony Reyes and Mario Buensuceso, 6-1, 6-0.

Matty Buenaventura and Ronnie Lacbayo prevailed over Cleofe Santos and Roy Pangelinan in the mixed 4.0 doubles finals, 7-6, 6-7, 7-6. Jim and Mihoko Tuttle ruled the mixed 3.0 division after thwarting Sung Hoon Ham and Jodel Fernandez, 6-2, 6-1. In the mixed open doubles, Loyola and Lydia Tan won in the finals via walkover against the duo of Race and Mailman, who could not play due to a hurting knee.

Two other doubles finals were played yesterday, but results were unavailable at press time. Theecel Minor and Melody Johnson collided with the duo of Fish Wang and Lihua Lin (women's doubles 3.0); and Richard Asuncion and Lacbayo dueled the tandem of Chuck Sayon and Hee Seung Kim (men's doubles 4.0).

MDX

From Page 28

of the core of the Dollar Days team that ruled the inaugural Navy Hill caging this year, played in the second game, and drew big games from Wowie Abuel, Kae Bernardo, and Ivan De Vero to pull off an upset over SIP.

The Bong Dungca-coached MDX also showed chemistry, which SIP lacked, as the latter struggled in shuffling its players, trailed early, and never recovered.

Abuel and Bernardo combined for 15 points in the first period and gave MDX a 27-20 advantage. The lead ballooned to double figures several times in the succeeding periods, as De Vero joined the scoring spree with his fastbreak layups.

SIP made one final attempt to steal the win when Pete Mendiola canned a triple to cut the lead to six, 82-88, with 52 seconds left in the fourth quarter.

After a timeout, MDX ran a well-executed play with Bernardo making a left sideline inbound and passing the ball to Bart Demapan, who then made a bounce pass to a cutting Abuel on the right wing. Abuel nailed the basket, giving MDX more breathing space and the lead returned to double digits, 92-82, after Bernardo buried an open jumper off another Demapan feed following an SIP botched play.

Bernardo top-scored for MDX with 27 points, while Abuel added 21, making nine of them from downtown. De Vero chipped in 17 points.

Junar Guiab paced SIP with 19 points, but was scoreless in the fourth. Elmer Esdrelon tallied 16, while Edsel Mendoza and Mendiola contributed 10 apiece.

In the curtain raiser, the Jericho Cruz-led Samahang Manggagawang Filipino/Quichocho Law Office walloped Cabalen-Jhems, 117-81.

Cruz had a game-high 25 points, while Bonbon Cadagat fired 18 markers. Four other Quichocho Law Office players finished in double figures to win their debut in the eight-team league.

The UFO caging opened with the traditional parade of teams. Bayani later was awarded the Best in Uniform trophy, while Cabalen's Pebbles Basilgo was named Best Muse.

Other teams playing in the seventh edition of the league are VisMinDa, Northern Marianas Bartenders Association, and NAMFREL.

First Game

SMF 117 – Cruz 25, Cadagat 18, Tumaquip 12, Lerio 14, Moises 14, Mendoza 10, Mendez 6, Pagarao 5, Apelo 5, Itaas 4, Tagle 2, Jugos 2.

Cabalen 81 – Mina 24, Guiang 20, Ortega 10, Cadag 7, Corotan 6, Guinto 5, Achaluche 4, Samson 2, Tengco 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-18, 57-35, 80-53, 117-81.

Second Game

MDX 94 – Bernardo 27, Abuel 21, De Vero 17, Tamayo 16, Demapan 8, Basilla 4, Melv. 1.

SIP 85 – Guiab 17, Esdrelon 16, Mendoza 10, Mendiola 10, Camacho 7, Villacrusis 6, Factor 6, Matagolai 4, Talania 3, De Dios 2, Canete 2.

Scoring by quarters: 27-20, 47-32, 67-58, 94-85.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	26	18	.591	-
Toronto	27	20	.574	1/2
New York	25	19	.568	1
Tampa Bay	23	23	.500	4
Baltimore	18	26	.409	8

Central Division

Detroit	24	18	.571	-
Kansas City	22	22	.500	3
Minnesota	22	23	.489	3 1/2
Chicago	19	23	.452	5
Cleveland	17	28	.378	8 1/2

West Division

Texas	26	17	.605	-
Los Angeles	23	20	.535	3
Seattle	20	24	.455	6 1/2
Oakland	16	25	.390	9

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	24	18	.571	-
Atlanta	23	20	.535	1 1/2
New York	23	20	.535	1 1/2
Florida	20	25	.444	5 1/2
Washington	13	30	.302	11 1/2

Central Division

Milwaukee	26	18	.591	-
St. Louis	26	18	.591	-
Cincinnati	23	20	.535	2 1/2
Chicago	21	21	.500	4
Pittsburgh	20	24	.455	6
Houston	18	24	.429	7

West Division

Los Angeles	30	15	.667	-
San Diego	22	22	.500	7 1/2
San Francisco	20	23	.465	9
Arizona	19	25	.432	10 1/2
Colorado	18	25	.419	11

Yesterday's Games

Colorado 3, Detroit 1
Philadelphia 4, N.Y. Yankees 3, 11 innings
Florida 5, Tampa Bay 4, 11 innings
Cincinnati 4, Cleveland 3, 11 innings
Boston 12, N.Y. Mets 5
Atlanta 10, Toronto 2
Washington 8, Baltimore 5
Texas 5, Houston 0
Pittsburgh 4, Chicago White Sox 3
Kansas City 3, St. Louis 2
Oakland 6, Arizona 2
Seattle 5, San Francisco 4
L.A. Angels 10, L.A. Dodgers 7
Minnesota 6, Milwaukee 3
San Diego 7, Chicago Cubs 2

BYRON NELSON CHAMPIONSHIP LEADERBOARD

FINAL ROUND

Rory Sabbatini	68	64	65	64	261
Brian Davis	68	65	66	64	263
D.A. Points	68	66	65	65	264
Scott McCarron	66	69	68	62	265
Dustin Johnson	68	65	66	66	265
John Mallinger	67	65	65	70	267
John Senden	71	68	65	64	268
Fred Couples	69	66	67	67	269
Jeff Maggert	71	66	65	67	269
Marc Leishman	68	70	63	68	269
Briny Baird	69	64	67	69	269
James Nitties	65	68	68	69	270
Danny Lee	69	67	69	66	271
Glen Day	69	66	65	71	271
Kevin Streelman	67	69	64	71	271
Greg Chalmers	68	69	69	66	272
Vijay Singh	70	67	69	66	272
Robert Garrigus	70	66	69	67	272
Justin Leonard	75	63	66	68	272
Steve Marino	69	69	66	68	272
Mike Weir	66	71	66	69	272
George McNeill	69	67	66	70	272
Jimmy Walker	71	68	69	65	273
Rod Pampling	72	67	69	65	273
Chris Riley	71	68	68	66	273
Tim Wilkinson	69	67	70	67	273
Tommy Armour III	67	71	68	67	273
Ken Duke	65	69	71	68	273
Ted Purdy	74	65	66	68	273
Alex Cejka	69	69	67	68	273
Charlie Wi	73	66	64	70	273
Michael Letzig	68	68	67	70	273
Bryce Molder	68	68	66	71	273
Charley Hoffman	71	66	65	71	273
Steve Flesch	70	69	69	66	274
Joe Ogilvie	69	70	68	67	274
Greg Owen	68	71	68	67	274
James Driscoll	67	66	69	72	274
Martin Laird	72	67	68	68	275
Matt Kuchar	70	69	68	68	275
David Mathis	72	67	67	69	275
John Rollins	72	66	68	69	275
Kris Blanks	68	71	66	70	275
Brad Adamonis	66	70	69	70	275
Ben Crane	71	68	71	66	276
Harrison Frazar	73	66	71	66	276
Chris DiMarco	67	69	72	68	276
Jeff Klauk	72	66	69	69	276
Hunter Mahan	71	68	67	70	276
Nathan Green	70	69	66	71	276
Charles Howell III	66	69	68	73	276
Mark Calcavecchia	68	70	75	64	277
Jay Williamson	68	71	71	67	277
Troy Matteson	68	69	71	69	277
Matt Weibring	67	69	71	70	277
Colt Knost	67	72	67	71	277
Davis Love III	73	64	69	71	277
Brian Bateman	69	70	66	72	277
Nicholas Thompson	73	66	64	74	277
Cliff Kresge	70	69	74	65	278
Todd Hamilton	71	67	71	69	278
Ricky Barnes	69	70	69	70	278
Y.E. Yang	69	67	69	73	278
J.J. Henry	71	68	66	73	278
Bob Heintz	68	70	73	68	279
Notah Begay III	73	65	70	71	279
Robert Allenby	67	67	70	75	279
Jesper Parnevik	67	68	69	75	279
Kent Jones	67	70	74	69	280
David Berganio Jr.	72	65	72	71	280
Jonathan Byrd	68	70	66	76	280
Shaun Micheel	72	67	70	72	281
Aaron Watkins	67	71	69	76	283
James Oh	71	68	74	74	287

By The Associated Press

3rd Annual Saipan Spearfishing Tournament

PHOTOS By MARK RABAGO

The 34 participants of the 3rd Annual Saipan Spearfishing Tournament join organizers and supporters for a group shot following the awards banquet for the one-day competition held last May 16.

Guam's Myles Driscoll, left, receives his top-of-the-line fins from Marianas Apnea Spearfishing Club president and tourney organizer Morito Asai after finishing first in the individual category.

Individual category runner-up Mike "Todd" Genereux of Guam gets a pricey harpoon from 3rd Annual Saipan Spearfishing Tournament organizer Morito Asai.

Myles Driscoll and Mike "Todd" Genereux topped the team category of the 3rd Annual Saipan Spearfishing Tournament after hauling in 150.5 lbs. of fish. Also in photo is captain Ben Camacho, second right, and Morito Asai.

Second runner-up Felix Sasamoto of Saipan shows off his T-shirt and trophy as Morito Asai looks on.

Dethroned team category champions Scott and Russell and Peter Houk netted 75.5 lbs. of fish. Also in photo is their boat captain.

Sasamoto brothers Felix and Gregg speared 64 lbs. of fish to take third place.

Derek San Nicolas and his partner John Kim came in fourth with a haul of 43 lbs.

Henry Ilo and Ken Taitano were sixth best in the team category after bringing in 37 lbs. of fish to the weighing station at the Smiling Cove Marina.

Vince Tudela and Wyman Rechucher, not in photo, finished fifth with their total catch weighing in at 38 lbs.

Howard's 24 lead Magic past Cavs for 2-1 lead

LeBron James had no shot. Dwight Howard scored 24 points—14 on free throws—and Rafer Alston added 18 as the Orlando Magic, sick of seeing replays of James' dramatic Game 2 buzzer-beater.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Mode Tour to host golf tourney

Mode Tour will be hosting a golf tournament this coming Saturday, May 30, at the west course of Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

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Walk-off singles lift Falcons, Ol'Aces to titles

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Falcons' Ben Cabrera and Ol'Aces' Virolanson Secharmidal connected on walk-off singles to power their respective teams to a title win in the Big League and Major League divisions of the 2009 Saipan Little League Baseball yesterday.

Cabrera's walk-off single drove Taco Camacho home and lifted the Falcons to a 6-5 win over the Fielders in the battle of the last two seeded teams in the playoffs.

The Falcons defeated second-ranked Ol'Aces

See WALK-OFF on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members and coaching staff of the Falcons pose for a group photo after beating the Fielders in the Big League finals. Left, Ol'Aces celebrate their title win against the Dragons in the Major League finals yesterday.

Williams and Talavera rule May Masters

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Emi Williams and Robert Talavera topped the 27th Annual Saipan Bowling Center May Masters Tournament held over the weekend at the San Jose bowling facility.

Williams took the women's championship after knocking down 2,187 pins and posting an average of 182.25 in 12 games. Williams showed her best form in the last game, tallying 223 pinfalls and had her second-best score in Game 4 with her 214 pinfalls.

Fourteen other female keglers participated in the May Masters event with the Top 5 finishers receiving cash prizes. Williams went home with $300 and a trophy.

Yvo Villavicencio recorded 2,098 in 12 games to finish second, followed by Diane Camacho (2,071), 2007 and 2008 winner Ron Cal (2,050), and Mel Regis (2,026).

Williams was busy returning to the make-shift stage for the awards ceremony held at the residence of Saipan Bowling Association president

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May Masters winners Robert Talavera, left, and Emi Williams show the trophies and cash prizes they received during the awards ceremony for the 27th Annual Saipan Bowling Center May Masters Tournament last Sunday.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

6 clinch junior titles in DFS tennis

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association wrapped up the juniors singles competitions in the 2009 DFS Micronesian Tennis Championships with six young netters crowned champions yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club tennis courts.

Ruling their respective divisions were Woo Suk Chang and Thea Minor in the 18-and-under division, Christian Miller and Negahr Rastguiy in the 13-and-under age group, and Emily Jones and Carl Dela Cruz in the 10-and-under category.

Chang foiled Rafael Jones'

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Ji Hoon Heo, left, jumps off a forehand return while teammate Jeff Race looks on during their men's open doubles finals game against Peter Loyola and Kirk Schuler in the DFS tennis tournament yesterday at the PIC tennis courts.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MDX's Wowie Abuel, right, pulls up for a triple against the outstretched arms of SIP's Badong Camacho during their game in the opening day of the UFO caging last Sunday at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan.

MDX stuns SIP in UFO caging opening

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MDX-Chow Queen appears to be an early favorite in the 7th United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Basketball League after stunning defending champion Samahang Ilokano at Pangasinense, 94-85, during the league's kickoff night Sunday at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan.

MDX, which is composed

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